

BAY BREA REPORTER

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IN THIS ISSUE



Easter Bunny Danny Williams wants to see your basket. (Photo: Rink)

JURY DEADLOCKS in case of hustler accused of killing a Gay man. Despite confession—and 39 stab wounds—the accused now faces only 2 to 4 years for the killing. **Page 3.**

WAR ON AIDS is urged by a weekend conference which drew a packed crowd. Mobilization Against AIDS organizes to plot strategy for more federal AIDS money. **Page 4.**

SUPES OKAY PLAN for Gay man to build on his three lots on Twin Peaks. In so doing, "irregular" conduct on part of City Attorney comes to light in the case. **Page 11.**

COURT VICTORIES for Gays in past few weeks have come forth from a humble office in the Castro. Mike Hippner drops in to talk to folks at National Gay Rights Advocates. **Page 16.**

Ad Firm Balks at 'Gay'—In the Castro

Direct Mail Firm Was Worried About Offending the Natives

by Will Snyder

An ex-journalist turned Gay businessman recently had a writer's nightmare—tight editing—and it turned into an uncomfortable situation. Some fast legal advice not only solved the problem, but also created a milestone for his company.

The problem was that a direct-mail marketing firm, which targets products to specialized markets, did not want to use the word "Gay" in a campaign. The campaign was targeted to the Haight and Castro neighborhoods—probably the Gayest patches of real estate in the world.

Patrick Murphy, a former reporter with the *San Francisco Chronicle* who has turned to bulk-mail advertising for a career, introduced the word "Gay" to his mail customers over the original protestations of his company's home office.

Murphy is president with Val-Pak of San Francisco, a local subsidiary of Val-Pak Direct Marketing Systems, a company which sends advertising through the mail to potential customers.

Murphy, who is Gay, had never had an occasion to use the word "Gay" in any of his advertising until a few weeks ago. Peter Essex of the DeHaven Valley Farm Inn of Westport, CA decided to use Val-Pak's services.

"He came to us, I believe, through the GGBA (Golden Gate Business Association)," Murphy said. "His business is a hotel up there and he wanted to include as part of his coupon offer a night free on the hotel." Down at the bottom of the ad, Murphy continued, "he wanted to use the phrase, 'A unique Gay experience.'"

Since Murphy's Val-Pak mailings were going to 94114 and 94117 mailing areas, Murphy never gave a thought to any trouble. He figured both areas were either heavily Gay or would not be offended.

He found out differently when the advertising layouts came back from the company's Santa Ana, CA art department.

"I received a note from the art department questioning the word 'Gay,'" Murphy said.

Murphy added that the company was concerned with the advertising falling into the hands of people who could cause legal problems, sometimes based on such things as religious grounds. He said the company tried to get him to delete the word.

"This one woman in the art department who sent me the note tried to suggest different ways of using the ad without using the word," Murphy remembered. "She said, 'Take away the word. They'll still know.'"

"I just simply told her, 'Look it. I'm Gay,'" Murphy added, "We don't have antenna. How would they know just by looking at the ad that it was a Gay hotel?"

It was then, Murphy said that he turned over the case to attorney Michael Hall, of Wotman and Hall.

"I have to give Mike Hall a lot of credit for getting this thing resolved," Murphy said. "He knows our company's corporate structure and knows what kind of business we do."

Murphy said Hall got on the phone to different Val-Pak national officials and soon the problem was solved. Hall, said Murphy, merely pointed out the geographical areas the bulk mail was going to and how it would be advantageous to the company

(Continued on page 2)



Batter Up! What a great day to play ball—and what a great crowd showed for the GSL opener Sunday. (Photo: Rink)

Bishop Swing Makes Stirring AIDS Appeal

by Allen White

Bishop William Swing, one of the highest ranking church officials in the Episcopal Church, began an unprecedented spiritual war last Monday night against AIDS from the pulpit of Grace Cathedral. Following almost two months of planning, his actions took place in conjunction with the first planned monthly "AIDS Healing Service" co-sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of California, Grace Cathedral and the AIDS Interfaith Network.



William Swing
(Photo: Roger Richard)

In the midst of Easter week, Bishop Swing said, "It is time to stop washing our hands like Pontius Pilate and start getting our hands deeper in the pursuit of a cure." Pilate was Roman governor of Judea, and Swing made a comparison stating, "For too long politicians have dragged their feet because they fear that they would be subsidizing a Gay lifestyle or promiscuity. It is too late to posture. All kinds of people are dying."

He publicly took aim at Jerry Falwell and others of his stripe saying, "The first reaction of the moral majority was to push for blame, judgment, and condemnation. Many have said that AIDS is God's judgment on the homosexual community."

Then he zeroed in on the church. "There is more going on in the AIDS crisis than finding an answer to the question: 'Who sinned?'" Bishop Swing then slammed away from every angle as he exclaimed, "The AIDS crisis cries out for healing, not condemnation . . . cries out for mercy, not throwing stones . . . cries out for deeper understand-

(Continued on page 2)

Appeals Court Rejects Effort To Challenge CIA's Gay Policy

3-Judge Panel Reviews Case in Secret; Even the Reason for Decision is 'Classified'

by George Mendenhall

Down, but not out. That describes Dick Gayer, a Gay electronics engineer, who refuses to accept a 3-judge federal appeals court dismissal of his latest attempt to discover why he is being denied a special security clearance. He will ask the entire 15 members of the appeals court to hear his demand for a re-hearing.

If necessary, he said, he will appeal all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, though he said that may be a waste of time. The three local justices were not only rejecting Gayer's appeal but an entire "class" of thousands of people that Gayer believes have the same problem.

(Continued on page 15)

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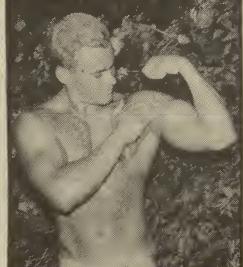
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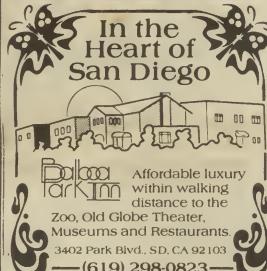
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What Will the Kids Say? That was the concern over a Val-Pak coupon which uttered That Word—"Gay." (Photo: Rink)

Ad Firm Balks

(Continued from page 1)

to use the word "Gay." Val-Pak general manager Al Moreno confirmed this from the company's Santa Ana offices.

"We had no problem with this after communication on the subject," said Moreno. "It was only because of correspondence we had received on the topic that there was concern."

"In the past, there has been some adverse reaction to using any words which might be con-

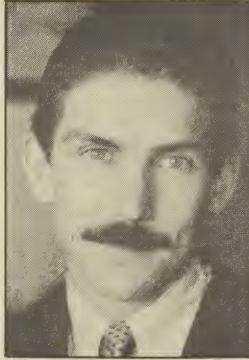
troversial because of the mail going directly into private homes," Moreno added.

But once Hall explained the geographical advantages of running the ad as is, Moreno explained, the situation was resolved.

As far as Murphy was concerned, this was a milestone. It was the first time Val-Pak advertising used the word "Gay."

"I'm sort of proud of that," he said. ■

W. Snyder



Michael Hall (Photo: Rink)

Bishop Makes AIDS Appeal

(Continued from page 1)

ding, not knee-jerk homophobia."

"The same biblical literalists who love to tell about everyone's restraint in the story of the woman taken in adultery . . . are the first people to declare that the stones should be flung at homosexuals." Carefully he threw the parable in the face of the moralists, noting, "the same Jesus who had mercy on the woman taken in adultery, is the same Jesus who was understanding about the sexual shortcomings of the potential rock throwers, and is the same Jesus who is merciful toward homosexuals."

Re-clarifying his point he said, "Jesus showed us too much about the mercy of God for us heterosexuals to feel comfortable about ghettoizing, ostracizing, and bashing homosexuals." The spiritual leader then said, "If we had never met Jesus, we could have held homosexuals in contempt forever. But it is too late. We know him in the faces of suffering. We have seen his overwhelming desire to heal. We know to wait for his new revelation."

At a press conference prior to the service he was asked if AIDS is a visitation of God's wrath upon homosexuals. He firmly answered no and added, "If it were, I would then interpret that God is saying by this epidemic that it is basically good to be straight or Lesbian because they are not the basically affected groups. I think that the logic of the argument of God's wrath on homosexuals breaks down." Swing also said, "I cringe when we hunt for an easy answer to an epidemic."

Several times during the evening he took a stance that bordered on a threat to the church to begin to awaken to the needs of Gay men and Lesbians. Nothing could have been more clear than his statement that "the homosexual Christian often speaks of having no liveable alternative, of being treated like an unclean leper, and of not being able even to have open con-

versation in the Church on the subject of his or her situation. If we add the AIDS epidemic to the extreme high percentages of suicide and alcoholism among homosexual Christians, it seems that the Church has got to stop and listen to the cry and show some genuine openness."

As the service progressed, the most holy of religious sacraments including the traditional laying on of hands and the anointing of oil was followed by a communion service conducted by the Bishop. The label of "healing service" may be interpreted in many ways be it physical, emotional or spiritual.

Whatever the assessment, it is of considerable significance that the Bishop of the Bay Area's "California Diocese" of the Episcopal Church has chosen to take this service to make a stand and back that position not only with words and actions but also

A. White



Healing Words. Episcopal Bishop William Swing speaks at special AIDS service. (Photo: Rink)

Hustler Admits Killing 'John'; Jury Deadlocks on Manslaughter

*A Classic Tenderloin Tragedy Will Result in
No More Than 2-4 Year Sentence for Killer*

by George Mendenhall

Ralph Murray, a Tenderloin hustler, told a jury here in late March that he killed Donald Spottiswood, an apartment house manager, on Nov. 26—infllicting 39 stab wounds. The jury decided that the killer did not technically "murder" his victim because he did so without malice. The jury was deadlocked in a 9-3 decision. The majority favored a manslaughter conviction, so when Murray is tried again in May he can receive nothing more severe than a manslaughter conviction—which means a possible 2 to 4 years of imprisonment.

The Nov. 26 slaying involved the classic john and hustler relationship in which the circumstances led to tragedy. A jury before Superior Court Judge Jack Berman heard the details in the three-day trial. Prosecuting Murray was Assistant District Attorney Tom Norman, who gained fame in his prosecution of Dan White after the former Supervisor assassinated Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk. Defending Murray was attorney Harriet Ross of the Public Defenders office.

"The jury decision is very disconcerting," Norman related after the trial. "Ten years ago, a jury would have found a defendant in a case such as this guilty of first or second degree murder."

In 1983, the state Supreme Court ruled in *People vs. Stone* that when a jury is hung in the first trial, the second jury may only consider conviction on the level that the previous jury could not resolve its differences—in this case, voluntary manslaughter. This means the maximum sentence that Murray could receive will be 2 to 4 years.

HUSTLER'S STORY

Murray, 32, took the stand to tell jurors that when he saw a large butcher knife in Spottiswood's hand his fear of knives took over and "I just freaked out." He could not stop stabbing the dying man. The coroner counted 39 stab wounds all over Spottiswood's body—from his lower legs to his head, where there were seven wounds, including one in the mouth. The body was found while Murray sat in the Gangway bar having a beer.

The Nov. 26 incident began when Murray left his room in the Tenderloin, which he shared with a woman. He said, "It takes money to drink and the rent was overdue. I felt low." In the Gangway, he ran across Spottiswood whom he had sex with before. He said his friend offered him \$30 so they took a taxi to a nearby apartment house that Spottiswood managed.

The young hustler testified he was not Gay but said he had "sodomized" men on 25 occasions for money. Earlier, on the taped confession played for the jurors, Murray had said that the sex did not involve prostitution.

Murray told the jury his version of what happened in Spottiswood's apartment:

The two men stripped nude and had sex. The older man said he was pleased with the performance but he would have to pay later as he had no money. The men argued as they drank and then fell asleep. Murray woke, put on his friend's clothes, and began to fill a suitcase with vases and pictures. Spottiswood woke and caught Murray.

Spottiswood took a large butcher knife from a kitchen drawer and stood before Murray with it—although he did not thrust it

was openly attesting to his life as a male hustler.

Attorney Ross, instead, emphasized that Murray had led a tragic life—alcoholic parents, a frequent run-away from foster homes, forced to steal to survive, frequently arrested, living in reformatories and prisons. She told the jury the large knife "would make a reasonable person fear for his safety—a fear that a person wielding the knife might cause great bodily harm."

Prosecutor Norman countered that the claim of self-defense requires that there be a real threat of bodily harm—not just a fear of death. He emphasized that Murray himself testified that the victim had not attacked him. In fact, when Murray was apprehended he had no body wounds.

Ross asked the jury for the lowest possible sentence, the one given Dan White after he assassinated Moscone and Milk: Involuntary Manslaughter. She said Murray did not deliberately kill, that he acted in self-defense and without malice.

Norman said 39 stab wounds went far beyond self-defense. He called for first degree murder, alleging that the defendant had a "homosexual panic" when he discovered his companion to be homosexual. Clearly, Murray knew what he was doing and

**Norman said that
39 stab wounds
went far beyond
self-defense. He
alleged it was a
deliberate murder.**

at him. Murray said he panicked when he saw the knife because he has a great fear of knives. He said he had been stabbed in the past.

Murray continued to relate his story, and said he struggled

with Spottiswood and took the knife from him and began stabbing. He put the knife in the sink and changed his bloody clothes, climbed out of a window, and returned to the Gangway for a beer, he said. A police investigation led to the bar. Murray was found nearby in a mini-park. He confessed but said he acted in self-defense.

LAWYER ARGUMENTS

The Public Defender made no claim, that the defendant had a "homosexual panic" when he discovered his companion to be homosexual. Clearly, Murray knew what he was doing and

Lesbian Rights Networking Retreat

The Lesbian Rights Task Force of Sacramento chapter of the National Organization for Women will sponsor a networking retreat on the weekend of June 8 and 9. The site will be a rustic, private, women's campground near Fresno. All women interested in working toward Lesbian rights will be welcome.

Workshop titles include: Setting Up a Lesbian Rights Task Force, and Making It Work; Strategy Sharing; Successes and Failures in Working for Lesbian Rights (Input welcome from all participants); Homophobia; Within and Without; and Where Do We Go From Here?

It is anticipated that the retreat will lead to the creation of a statewide network which will be an ongoing resource for Lesbian Rights Task Forces throughout the state.

Flyers will be mailed to all CALNOW chapter coordinators, newsletter editors, and Lesbian Rights Task Force chairs. They may also be obtained by contacting Audrey Mertz, 1825 Beverly Way, Sacramento, CA 95818, (916) 446-2997.

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Conference Declares Nat'l 'War on AIDS'

Mobilization Against AIDS Plans Strategies, Pleads for 'Soldiers'

by Charles Linebarger

"AIDS education is the only AIDS vaccine we have," said John Lorenzini. He was speaking at the founding conference of the Mobilization Against AIDS, on Friday night, March 29. "The federal government still has done nothing to finance AIDS education. And San Francisco outspends New York City and the state of California combined on AIDS."

Lorenzini, who is the chair of the San Francisco chapter of the People With AIDS, was the first of four speakers in a not-large-enough groundfloor room at 240 Golden Gate Avenue. An audience of well over a hundred crowded into the room. It was the opening session of a three-day conference.

The AIDS Show from Theatre Rhinoceros began the evening. "I like to get drunk, smoke pot, use poppers and fuck with strangers. Call me old fashioned, but . . ." Went one ironic line delivered by actor/comedian Doug Holsclaw, in a skit in which he and three other actors played trivit and talked about how much they miss the old free and easy sex lifestyle before AIDS.

At the end of the performance the entire cast of The AIDS Show gathered at the front of the room for a rousing chorus before tossing condoms into the crowd.

Lorenzini, who has been involved with the Mobilization from its beginning in October 1984, told the audience that we are in the midst of a war, and "that there are many medics in this war, but we are desperately short of soldiers."

CIVIL LIBERTIES

Pat Norman, San Francisco Coordinator of Lesbian and Gay Health Services, was the next speaker. She talked about her worries regarding the new test for the presence of antibodies to the HTLV-3 virus.

"It's not a diagnostic test," Norman said. "It's not going to give anyone anything they will find useful. And it leaves us totally open to everyone's eye. We could end up losing our jobs, our insurance, our homes and our friends. It's a most important issue."

Norman also talked about the dichotomy that has been raised between health issues and civil liberties. Civil liberties are important, according to Norman, because a discussion of how AIDS is impacting on Gay civil liberties is a discussion in effect of how Gay people are going to find themselves living in the United States in the next 10 to 15 years.

The Gay and Lesbian community has been pushed into making decisions urgently and without an opportunity to look at all the pros and cons, according to Norman. And she reiterated that the Lesbian and Gay community is in a battle with the people who want to take away this community's civil rights.

Los Angeles was represented by Dr. Neil Schram, the chair of the Los Angeles Task Force on AIDS.

"Why are we here?" Asked Schram. "Why do we have to get the federal health community to do their job?" Schram told the audience that federal health officials repeatedly tell Congress that no more money is needed in the fight against AIDS. "Is this happening because AIDS primarily affects Gay people?"

Schram asked, "You better believe it."

PRESSURE

Political pressure, according to Schram, is critical. He pointed out that there are twice as many people with AIDS this year as compared to a year ago, while the federal government is planning to cut AIDS funding by \$10 million.

Schram stressed that Gays should not take the HTLV-3 antibody test, and that they should ask their health providers not to give them the test. "It will end up in your medical record," said Schram.

Schram sees increasing infection with the HTLV-3 virus and a public health emergency looming on the horizon.

"If nothing is done more of us will be infected," Schram said. "If nothing is done our enemies will win. Gay bars will be closed. It will probably become illegal for someone potentially infectious to have sex."

To forestall this scenario, Schram stressed that all high-risk people must do everything

'Is this happening because AIDS primarily affects Gay people? You better believe it.'

—Dr. Neil Schram

they can to avoid infection. His message was to stay "negative" (to the HTLV test) if you are now, and if you are "positive" don't let anyone know.

Gary MacDonald, an AIDS lobbyist in Washington, was the last speaker of the night. According to MacDonald, the Reagan Administration has left Congress to wrestle with the AIDS crisis for the last three years. And he noted that the Reagan administration is this year asking for a cut of 14 percent in money to be spent on AIDS compared to last year, leaving the federal contribution to the fight against AIDS at \$86 million dollars.

MacDonald said that no one in the federal government has challenged the notion that AIDS is a Gay disease. "How else," MacDonald said, "could the federal government have gotten away (from its responsibilities) for two years, unless by tagging this as a Gay disease?"

If AIDS killed white male heterosexuals, according to MacDonald, "Reagan would have led the fight against it himself, money would have flowed like champagne, and every victory in the battle against the disease would have been celebrated by the highest officials within the administration."

The Gay community, MacDonald emphasized, will have to mobilize to see that the federal government lives up to its responsibilities in the fight against AIDS.



War on AIDS. Conference speakers were (from l.) Dr. Neil Schram, Pat Norman, Gary MacDonald and John Lorenzini. (Photo: Rink)

AIDS Lobbyist Sees Limits to Fed Help

The Only Way to Stop AIDS Is to 'Teach People to Stop It,' he says

by Will Snyder

A Gay lobbyist for an AIDS-related organization found plenty of diplomatic things to say about friends of the Reagan Administration, but Gary MacDonald still found much to criticize the White House for during a trip to San Francisco last week.

MacDonald, who is the Executive Director of the Washington-based AIDS Action Council, acknowledged that Margaret Heckler, President Reagan's Secretary of Health and Human Services, "has done some damage" to AIDS research, but "she is also personally moved" by briefings given her on AIDS.

"I spent two hours in her office," MacDonald said. "She understands well much that is going on in regards to AIDS, and in detail, too."

"While I wouldn't say that she is a friend of ours," he continued, "I would say that she has been personally moved by some of the findings brought to her."

MacDonald had kinder things to say about most Democrats in Washington, but he singled some Republicans as well, senators such as Lowell Weicker of Connecticut and Orin Hatch of Utah. Hatch, he said, has been conservative on many issues, but has been attentive to Gay issues.

MacDonald, who spoke at some functions of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation Friday and Saturday, felt the Reagan Administration had an improper philosophy about AIDS, and it has led to an underfunding of AIDS research.

"The government's traditional approach to prevention," he said, "is to identify the cause, then find the cure. But with AIDS, there isn't any cure right now and unfortunately, there isn't likely to be for some time."

"The problem so far with the Administration," he added, "is that it consistently has underestimated its need to handle the AIDS crisis."

He pointed out that the White House had proposed between \$47 to \$50 million for AIDS research. The lobbyist claims AIDS groups need \$97 million.

"This has happened before,"

MacDonald said. "Last year, Congress had to tell them, 'You need this amount of money. Why don't you use it?'"

Instead of taking the money and using it, MacDonald charged, the Reagan Administration had been proposing cuts in health services which he says are important to situations involving AIDS.

"They want to cut funding for Medicaid and bio-medical research grants," he said. "These are programs which have an effect on AIDS. In all, a 14 percent cut is expected in the next year."

As critical as he was about the Administration, he added that "there is only so much the federal government can do."

He added that the only way to stop AIDS is "to teach people how to stop it."

AIDS Symposium

A symposium entitled "Homophobia and Social Attitudes: Their Impact on AIDS Research" will be presented at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) on May 29, at the Los Angeles Hilton. The symposium is sponsored by the AAAS Office of Opportunities in Science, and was arranged by the National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals (NOGLSTP) and the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Scientists (LAGLS). Major funding is being provided by the AIDS Task Force of the University of California. The symposium and AAAS meetings (from May 26-31) are open to the general public.

For further information, contact Dr. Walt Westman, National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals, 260 Hartford St., San Francisco, CA 94114, (415) 621-0329.

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Thursday, April 11, 2:00 p.m.
Casa De Crystal - 1121 Polk Street

Monday, April 15, 2:00 p.m.
Vally's Fireside - 525 Castro Street

Thursday, April 18, 2:00 p.m.
Chaps - 375 11th Street

Friday, April 19, 2:00 p.m.
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Choose the training session that is most convenient for you and call Les Pappas at 864-4376 to sign-up (drop-ins will be accepted).



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NEXT ISSUE OUT: APRIL 11

NEXT DEADLINE: APRIL 8

VIEWPOINT

LETTERS

On Quarantine

In an interview with *Mother Jones* last October, (Public Health Service Director Edward) Brandt offhandedly revealed that such extreme measures as a quarantine and mass firings of Gays had been seriously discussed within Administration councils.

—*Mother Jones*, April 1985

This newspaper and others have been frequent targets of derision for expressing concern about quarantine. It is a cold comfort that recent news reports are confirming some of our worst fears. It is time for everyone to pay attention to the quarantine issue.

The first report was domestic. San Francisco-based *Mother Jones* magazine, in an investigation of federal responses to the AIDS epidemic, published the statement quoted above. *Mother Jones* has proved itself to be a thorough and credible journal. We believe this report to be truthful. Its source could not be more authoritative. As director of the Public Health Service, Dr. Edward Brandt supervised both AIDS medical research and the federal Centers for Disease Control. If anyone would be aware of discussions about the quarantine of Gays, it would be Dr. Brandt.

Gays in Britain have an immediate crisis. The national minister of health has granted local magistrates the power to order persons with AIDS quarantined in hospitals. It is the first nation to grant quarantine powers in the AIDS epidemic. Will it be the last?

The situation in Britain bears analysis. AIDS hysteria there has reached a fever pitch, stoked by the lurid headlines of the London yellow press. The leader in this campaign is the *Sun*, daily circulation 3 million copies owned by Rupert Murdoch. Murdoch is the press lord who currently is buying up U.S. newspapers. His current holdings include daily papers in New York, Boston, and Chicago.

But, while Murdoch is the epitome of scare journalism, certainly other journals are doing their worst to inflame AIDS panic. Our own *San Francisco Chronicle* is among them. Every time a heterosexual matron gets AIDS, it is a front-page sensation, often garnering the boldest headline on the page. The afternoon *Examiner* and the television and radio stations routinely follow the lead of the half-million-copy morning daily.

Such sob-sister dispatches are interspersed with the latest in crystal-ball journalism: scare predictions of how many people will have AIDS in future years. By some of the calculations published recently, the entire planet will die by 1999.

It remains to be seen if Americans are as prone to media scares as Britons. Certainly it seems possible. And if the AIDS epidemic does grow to present a real threat to the "mainstream population" (as the *Examiner* put it), then severe backlash against our people is a plausible result.

It is time for us to ponder what our response will be in the event of a quarantine. It is no longer possible to dismiss the issue as paranoia. It is no longer sensible to ignore what is happening, today. It is no longer prudent to deride the issue, or to ignore it and hope it will go away.

We call for a community conference on quarantine. We urge all four Gay political clubs to organize the affair. The Physicians for Human Rights would be a wise choice to moderate. It is time to make plans to face quarantine.

We hope we will never need such plans. But, to not have them, is the height of folly.

Brian Jones

Clothes as Theater

* Responding to Jerry Rosco's letter on affection, (B.A.R. 3/28), female drag may or may not be synonymous with a stereotypically Gay lifestyle. Think of all the straight commenders who have done drag. I try to be less rigid about stereotypes and more open minded. You compare bizarre stereotypes (seemingly a contradiction) with "Amos 'n' Andy" and "Buckwheat." The former was invented by Whites on radio. This show presented Blacks who kept their place, rather like Uncle Tom.

Drag on the other hand has always been a conscious choice (and a social comment) made by Gays. America had to be exposed to Blacks' extreme expressions, including Black rage, before their movement could really get under way. Similarly, we must not hide ourselves or our feelings. This is not to say we must all necessarily march in dresses, but that Gays trying to pass as straight isn't much different than Blacks trying to pass as White.

Some Gay men who (by nature or "affection") fit more closely the current national image of masculinity feel that those who (by choice or birth) do not fit this male "stereotype" should be invisible. This is a form of homophobia. There is nothing wrong with a man not wanting to do drag himself. It is wrong to criticize another's self-expression.

There are butch as well as effeminate affectations as is evident in the hyper-masculine black leather and steel Folsom look. Are all these men really so severe in real life? Do you always judge a book by its cover? One should get over cruising clothes instead of people. Our dress is partly theater and each person's current expression of who they are. It should be respected as such.

Carl Linhart
San Francisco

Check the Facts

* Before you print anymore of Mr. Locke's articles on "Safe Sex," please research what he is saying. Just because a condom will not let air escape when inflated, does not mean that many viruses including HTLV-3 and Herpes cannot pass freely through the membrane. Such a presumption on his part is stupid and borders on the criminal.

Also, washing the skin with all those harsh germ killers is counter-productive. What one is in fact doing is removing the protective acid mantle from the skin thereby opening it up to infection. Please, before printing anymore of his guidelines, check with the people who know what they're talking about.

Curt Pilatz
San Francisco

Leave It Alone

* There seems to be a healthy trend growing that drag and its other degenerate forms doesn't seem to be everyone's cup of tea. I am tired of being told that it is a part of my lifestyle. Some bozo decided it was apart of being happy, different and a way of getting at the straight world. Sure outrageous drag is fun at times, but I am sick of it at every party, parade and fair. It's not fun anymore but more of an eyesore. I feel sorry for people who feel that wearing a dress is the final outcome of coming out. What a bunch of crap. I even feel sorry for the guy who got more out of wearing a dress than all the Gay rights protests he attended since his involvement in this movement.

Not accepting men wearing dresses is not a cop-out. I tell you what a cop-out is, telling me that just because I like my men to be men that secretly I am hoping for straight acceptance. Who defines "straight acting"? Probably the same bozo that says that drag is a way of expressing our Gay souls. Sister Boom Boom is not

a Gay expression, and I'll be damned if we have come so far I am going to accept that.

I am Gay, I am different, I want no more or less rights than John Doe next door. I don't believe that by moving to San Francisco, like many have done I can achieve this. It is so easy being Gay in San Francisco, but what about those that live in suburbs? I think they do more for the movement than those in the city. Let's face it, not everyone can live in San Francisco. I know there is more strength in numbers, and the bars are so close to each other and there are more Gay businesses to work at. But it takes more strength to be Gay in suburbs and be part of it.

My beautiful sacred soul is not waiting to burst out, it has years ago. I am who I am. My friends are not all Gay, it has been a learning experience for me and my friends. They don't push their straightness on me, nor have I been waiting in the wings to win their acceptance. We have had difficult times, I've lost a few friends, because I don't feel that everyone has to accept me. I have come a long way, and it had nothing to do with wearing a dress.

Gay is good if you leave it alone.

Buster Billie
San Jose

The Mess at Pride

* In Letters, 3/21, Donald Coffinger, Acting President of the Pride Foundation, has finally explained for us what is wrong at Pride: everything is Brandy Moore's fault. Apparently this remarkable organization intends to die as it lived—self-righteously, protecting innocence, pointing the finger.

Mr. Coffinger, while I believe you are well-intentioned, I think you should examine your position a little more thoroughly. The mess at Pride predates Brandy Moore by many years. At least some of the problems are surely due to the personal qualities of Del Dawson, who has long had a reputation in the Gay community for believing that accountability is for lesser men than himself. In any case, Pride is now so thoroughly discredited that the old scapegoating tactics are too hollow to be taken seriously. I suggest you follow Brandy Moore's excellent example and leave. At this late date, excuse-making and blaming make you look foolish.

Tom Moon
Kentfield

Too Queer

* Regarding Mr. Marcus' remark about the Hearing Dog charity:

It's apparent he is too queer to be man enough to support anything but a Gay charity. Gays have hearing problems also, Mr. Marcus.

B. Mavis
San Francisco

Letter Policy

* The Bay Area Reporter welcomes your letters, to the editor. Letters must be signed; anonymous letters will not be published. Please include your mailing address and telephone number so we may verify your letter — this information will not be published.

In order to print as many views as possible, we ask letter writers to be brief. To promote diversity in the Open Forum, we favor letters from writers who do not appear frequently, over repeated correspondence from a single author.

B.A.R.

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LETTERS

Good Seats

★ Read an item in the Sunday paper recently that may be of interest to your readers (*Examiner/Chronicle, This World*, March 24, p.17).

It seems that in the same way that Pavlov's dogs could be made to salivate at the ringing of a bell, laboratory mice display a similar conditioned reflex triggering immunological defense through a totally extraneous stimulus—such as a strong odor.

Well, the lights started flashing in my own head when I read that—Pavlovian, if you will. Here it seems is the link between the strict constructivist medical theorists and the wholistic alternative therapy types on the subject of AIDS. If the brain—ultimately the monitor and governor of every aspect of body function and chemistry—can be literally tricked/tripped into immunological action even by a strong odor (I'll leave that one alone), imagine the possibilities inherent in a complete, psycho/psychic, medically-sound biofeedback system that is designed to train the brain back to health.

After all, if we are force-fed unhealthy food, fast living, stress, alienation and self-hatred, how long can it be before our brains finally give in and follow the party line?

J. Stephen Moorehead
San Francisco

Dealing with Disability

★ I would like to raise some issues that were not mentioned in your review of the movie, *Mask*. In addition to showing the courage of Rocky and his mother in facing this life-threatening illness, this movie is a sensitive exploration of some of the issues that many people with disabilities face: pain, social isolation, loneliness, and thwarted sexuality. One of the most frustrating and damaging experiences people with disabilities face is the fact of people turning away, afraid to make contact. And as society so often refuses to acknowledge people with disabilities, so disabled people themselves tend to deny their own conditions and try to pass as able-bodied as much as possible, or become super-achievers as Rocky did.

In my work at Operation Concern with Gay men with physical disabilities and chronic illnesses, these issues are raised frequently. With the emphasis Gay men put on visual appearance, they are often intensified, particularly when combined with questions of sexuality. With the reality of AIDS in our community, we are all increasingly having to deal with disabling conditions in ourselves and in those close to us. I recommend *Mask* as a way to begin to understand some of what is involved.

Bruce A. Folsom
Disability Consultant, Operation Concern
San Francisco

Least Regurgitation

★ Jesse Helms would like to take over CBS in order to replace that network's "liberal bias" with, regardless of what Helms calls it, his own conservative bias. Now comes Mr. Filante (*B.A.R. 3/21*) urging Democratic Gay men and women to "rise above partisan considerations" and become Republicans.

While I am no great fan of either CBS or Geraldine Ferraro, I do believe that, when the two biases are placed side by side, the Democratic one is the most palpable. Or, on second thought, the least regurgitative.

Charles Godwin
San Francisco

Victims of Police Assault

The following was sent to Superior Court Judge Claude D. Perasso:

★ On April 12 and April 23, you will be sentencing Scott Quinn and Niall Philpott, who were found guilty of assaulting Anthony Akins and Bruce Lindberg. It is to this issue and the phenomenon of victims and perpetrators of police misconduct that I address you in this letter.

I am the counselor/advocate for this agency and oftentimes I am called upon to aid victims of such violence as well as to comment on the serious psychological ramifications resulting from an assault by police personnel. To that issue, I would like to offer my analysis of what happened to especially Mr. Akins who has been a client of mine since he was attacked by Scott Quinn and Niall Philpott.

The physical and psychological impairment as a result of an attack by a police officer is much different from an assault by a citizen not connected to police personnel. Alienation coupled with the fear that a police officer may wish reprisal for reporting such misconduct, often causes severe withdrawal. I have noticed a strong connection between victims of rape and victims of police brutality in their psychological function. Both types of victims can experience loss of personal power because of the actions of a power figure. Fear of disclosing the incident can propel the victim to an almost manic state. The system becomes the enemy and the friends and family along with professionals within the system doubt the authenticity of the victim's allegations. In other words, victims of rape and police brutality are suspended in mid-air with little or no support. Oftentimes, they question their own complicity in the assault and experience denial of their own victimization.

Most of us conduct our lives with a certain amount of trust we accord amongst our fellow human beings. We trust that the unknown person walking towards us on the street will not violate our person. Within the confines of the criminal justice system, we place a "special trust" in police officers. When our fellow human being assaults us, we regain trust by reporting the incident to a police officer. It is our way of redressing the wrongs committed by individuals and our way of regaining the human dignity after it has been violated.

However, when that instrument of peace and justice becomes the violator, the assailant, our system of redress is shattered. Justice has exited. Where can we go? What can we do? Such was the case of a client of mine in 1983. He became increasingly despondent after he was attacked by police officers. Six months after he was assaulted, he took a gun to his head and ended his life. Unhappily, the officers who attacked my client were officers Scott Quinn and Niall Philpott. My client was not privileged with the options of redress or social justice.

The question before you now is whether the severity of your sentence should be highlighted because the assailants were police officers. In my mind, I believe that it is highlighted because these assailants were accorded public trust. That trust was violated for not just Mr. Akins and Mr. Lindberg. It was violated for all of us who delegated this trust in persons who protect our well being and human dignity. In many ways, Scott Quinn and Niall Philpott have raped the citizens of San Francisco.

In your decision, I hope you will sentence these men to prison. To do so gives us little redress for such gross violations of our public trust. We the people must deliver this message to all police personnel—that this "special trust" we accord them must be met with severe judgement if they have violated it.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these factors. I hope in some way, this may assist you in your decisions.

Randy Schell, Client Advocate
Community United Against Violence

Be Who You Are

★ In response to Steve Wynn's letter, (*B.A.R. 3/28*), I would like to propose as the question: "What does it mean to be human?" (If homosexuality is the answer, what is the question?)

I have had personal dealings with both Fr. Cromey and Bishop Swing and I do not find that either of them has a large enough view of the question for me to want their approval, either as individuals or in their official capacities as representatives of an institutionalized viewpoint. If, after a lifetime of hiding my sense of who I really am, I found someone to whom and with whom I was ready to commit myself, I would remember that it is two people in the sight of or the awareness of, a Higher Power who make a union. That has always been true.

Our real agony is expressed in the question, "Why can't we make them like us." To me the answer seems to be "because we don't like ourselves." I like Leo Buscaglia's "When we get to heaven, God won't ask why weren't you the Messiah or why didn't you discover a cure for cancer, but why weren't you who you are?"

Let's "get over it" and get on with it.

Robert Batter
San Francisco

Bishop Swing

★ Thank you for the excellent article about Bishop Swing and me and our divergent views on homosexual rights to have relationships blessed in the Church. Two points need clarification. I heartily endorse the work of The Parsonage. I have contributed money to its work, attended parties there, and dropped in from time to time. I do however criticize its leadership for giving Bishop Swing an award for Social Justice. Homosexual rights, AIDS, Anti-Fag bashing are not high on his agenda for the Church's work.

Secondly I do not and have never planned to "Disrupt" the award dinner. We will have a demonstration outside Grace Cathedral to point out Bishop Swing's anti-Gay/Lesbian attitude. We plan to do nothing inside where the dinner is to be held.

Robert W. Cromey
San Francisco

Amen

★ Enough already of these bitter and hurtful letters of people attacking one another.

The AIDS epidemic is big enough for all of us to contribute whatever we can. If someone does not like what another offers, then create your own form of participation to stop AIDS in our lifetime.

For every acerbic letter there could be ten sent to Washington and Sacramento, demanding more funds.

Energy could be spent answering phones at Shanti or the AIDS Foundation. Food needs to be collected and distributed. The possibilities are unlimited.

Let's be supportive of one another in this difficult time and show love instead of put-down.

Heidi Mueller
San Francisco

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LETTERS

Freedom for All

The following was sent to Warren Hinckle, Chronicle columnist:

* The Committee to Preserve Our Sexual and Civil Liberties wishes to thank you for appearing at the Alice B. Toklas meeting and emphasizing the need for Gay men to be aware that the attacks on sexual and civil liberties by the current city administration are an attack on all of our freedoms.

Our group was originally formed in response to what is generally called "the bathhouse issue." However, from the beginning it was apparent that this was only one aspect of a much larger pattern of sexual repression; an increase in police harassment of street and park cruising were also something which had to be confronted. We have made known to the Police Commission and relevant authorities that we condemn not only these acts, but also use of police to intimidate straight bookstores, to politically prosecute you and Marilyn Chambers, and to use surveillance files to intimidate Gay political organizations. We have also joined in lobbying for the Hongisto legislation which replaced the former Feinstein law requiring police permits for adult theaters and bookstores.

Each issue of Bay Area Reporter seems to be to light some new assault on our sexual and civil liberties, and we hope that such activities as your talk and its coverage will help bring the Gay community to an awareness of the crucial need to guard our freedoms. Unless Gay men are willing to stand for freedom of all—it be Marilyn Chambers or the baths—no one's freedom is safe. Again, thank you for bringing this much needed fact to your audience.

Jerry Jansen
Committee to Preserve Our
Sexual and Civil Liberties
San Francisco

Cheerleader for Diversity

* I would like to commend the Open Forum for allowing the opposition to your "Safe Sex" editorial to express themselves. I consider myself one of the cheerleaders for diversity of thought within the Gay press. Beat out as head cheerleader by that bitch Mary Louise. One of these days I'm going to think of something nice to write about her.

My very best wishes,

Samurita Wildfeather: Choctaw Geisha
San Francisco

News on Randy Taylor

* Randy Taylor and thousands of other Vietnam veterans have been petitioning the U.S. government for years for more meaningful treatment for the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder that has led to an inordinate amount of suicide and attempts among their number, as well as unusually high occurrence of drug and alcohol abuse, mental illness and convictions—mostly for victimless crimes—according to Veterans Administration statistics.

In the ten years of fighting in Vietnam, more than 55,000 Americans lost their lives. In the ten years since the end of that conflict, more than 55,000 vets have taken their lives.

Now the criminal justice system in Washington, D.C. wants to force Taylor to agree to rehabilitation as pretrial diversion for attempting to kill himself at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial last January. At a recent hearing, Taylor declined diversion—refusing to be treated like a criminal—and has been charged with unlawful possession of a firearm and ammunition. These misdemeanors are punishable by up to eighteen months in prison and/or a thousand dollar fine.

"I shall plead 'not guilty' because as you said so eloquently, Tom, 'The U.S. Government and American society all had their fingers on the trigger,'" wrote Taylor in a letter to me March 18, reminding me of what I had written to him earlier.

Meanwhile Taylor languishes in a veterans hospital in Washington, D.C., with his trial adding further emotional stress to his already overburdened psyche. The .38 caliber bullet he himself inflicted in anguish—over the shabby treatment he and other Vietnam vets have received since "coming home"—is still lodged in the right side of his back. Already disabled for the physical—not the emotional—wounds for which he received three Purple Hearts in Vietnam, Taylor is now slowly losing use of his legs. After three weeks of appealing for help, tests have finally begun.

"This hospital is a national disgrace," writes Taylor, describing some of the "neglect and maltreatment" America's ex-servicemen are receiving there. Veterans with AIDS, for instance, are placed in psychiatric wards and drugged until their condition is so critical they are moved to isolation to die, reports Taylor, a long-time advocate for Gay and Lesbian rights.

Himself Gay, Taylor came out of the closet in 1975 while attending Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond where he earned a degree in journalism in 1978. After moving west that year, he became office manager for "San Franciscans Against Proposition Six"—the Briggs Initiative—and has been a member of the Harvey Milk, Alice B. Toklas, and Stonewall Gay Democratic Clubs. Taylor also worked as a volunteer on numerous political campaigns and was an assistant scout master of a troop in the Sunset district of San Francisco, having been an Eagle Scout himself as a youth.

Most recently Taylor has been active with "People

Organized to Stop Rape of Imprisoned Persons"—a national abolitionist group of Gays and straights working together to end sexual terror behind bars (see B.A.R. letter, March 21). He has been working directly with Uriah Steppenwolf, an inmate of Jackson Prison, Michigan, who is co-chairman of POSRIP.

Taylor's attempted suicide has in turn inspired another ex-serviceman to begin planning his own death at the Memorial in Washington, D.C., to publicize—among other things—the incredibly high ratio of Vietnam vets in confinement in America today. Obviously Taylor has touched many lives—Gay and straight—and for many reasons.

Readers are encouraged to write or phone their support to: Randolph Taylor, Ward 2D East, Veterans Hospital, 50 Irving Street, NW, Washington, DC 20422, telephone (202) 745-8000, Ext. 7304.

Tom Cahill
Napa, CA

Shanti and Women

* I was appalled recently when I read that Supervisor Nancy Walker had "cast doubt on her support" of the Shanti Project at a Board of Supervisors Finance Committee meeting because a group had (falsely) accused the Project of no longer serving women.

I worked at the Shanti Project for a year and a half as both a volunteer and as the AIDS Residence Manager and I can assure you that the complaint has no basis in fact. I worked with a number of women while I was at Shanti—mothers, sisters and friends who were grieving and distraught and in many cases whose only support system during this painful time was the people at the Shanti Project! It should also be noted that Shanti does work with women with AIDS and that those numbers of cases are growing.

In all fairness, I'm sure that those women who complained have a lot of pain around the dying process and would like some place to go for help just as we all will someday. Unfortunately, Shanti is just one small organization dealing with death and dying in a world where everyone will someday die.

An AIDS death is different from other ways of dying. I have seen no other way of dying that so often leaves the dying person alone without the support of family or friends. All too often, a person who gets AIDS is virtually thrown out into the street by roommates and even by parents and family. This was especially true of the people with AIDS that I worked with at the Shanti residences. Of the twenty-five or so men that I worked with, only three mothers visited their sons and no fathers came!

I know that my letter is somewhat long, but I want to share with you these words from the letter of one of the mothers who did visit her boy:

"(Our town) is still in the dark ages in regards to AIDS, both the public and the medical profession. We were refused help every way we turned, so we shall always be grateful that you provided him a home away from home.

"Your job is not an easy one dealing with patients that are resenting their fate, but must be especially emotionally draining for each of you to see them pass away. We want you to know how appreciative we are for your dedication."

The people of the Shanti Project do a tremendously difficult job with very limited resources and they do it with great love and skill. I have nothing but respect and admiration for them. They deserve the support of us all.

Bill Barksdale
San Francisco

British Tyranny

* The Magna Carta has become quite dusty and soiled these days. The prim and meaning lost in its London coal burning soot, bullet proof glass and rope off scarlet velvet.

New British government regulations giving British magistrates broad authority in allegedly protecting their citizens from AIDS is, homophobic, hysterical and in violation of human rights. More importantly it is a smokescreen.

Study of English history would show these new measures are consistent with English colonial mentality—divide and conquer. It took India nearly 200 years to throw off the English colonial burden. The English played the royal rajas against each other to screen their deplorable dictatorial rule and protect their death grip on exploitation and plunder of India's wealth.

The similarities between this latest British attempt at divide and conquer is triggered by the poor British pound—hovering at a dollar, down nearly 400 percent in a dozen years—and the pitiful showing of the British economy. Any tactic which provides Margaret Thatcher's government a reprieve from the pressure of questionable political and economic policies is worth the trample upon human rights and common decency.

Adolf Hitler used the Jews, George Armstrong Custer used the Sioux Tribe. The British used just about everyone. It is in the nature for our very survival that we in the Gay and Lesbian community not forget the lessons of history lest we be doomed to relive them.

Democracy has its roots in tyranny. Those roots are terribly British.

J. Davis Mannino
San Francisco

POLITICS AND POKER

Bits and Pieces

WAYNE FRIDAY

Plenty of fallout from last week's *San Jose Mercury News* investigative series about the City's cops, with most of us getting a bit tired of it all. Will anything come of it? One of the comments from the series that caused the most comments was former police chief Charles Gain's comment that "Moscone used to refer to Feinstein as being half cop—she loved the police department. While Moscone was mayor she'd go to him and say, 'What is Gain doing with my police department?'" ... In Los Angeles, prominent political advisor and Gay rights activist David Mixner announced this week the formation of his new Pro-Peace organization; a longtime shaker in the anti-nuclear movement, Mixner says that as part of his commitment to Pro-Peace, he will give his lucrative public affairs consulting firm (Mixner/Scott, Inc.) to his employees (?) ... Political observers say that Council Member Wilson Riles, Jr. doesn't have a prayer in the April 16 Oakland mayoral race. Mayor Lionel Wilson is headed for a landslide third-term victory in the East Bay city of 340,000 people ... Mobilization Against AIDS presents "April Harvest," a benefit featuring entertainers Tom Ammiano, Wessie Whitfield, Ruth Hastings, and many others on April 15 at Theatre on The Square (\$15, 8 p.m., 928-5598 for info) and this one should be well worth attending ... Former Republican Lt. Governor Mike Curb is said to be "very interested" in running again in 1986 for his old job ... And in Washington there is talk about a Bush-Deukmejian ticket in 1988.

Political consultant/activist Dick Pabich was recently appointed by Speaker Willie Brown to the 8-member California State AIDS Advisory Committee ... I doubt that anyone

really cares, but William Tocco sent out a press release this week declaring that he will be a candidate for supervisor in the November 1986 elections ... And few around City Hall were surprised to learn the Supervisor Quentin Kopp had signed on as co-chair of the 5th congressional district's branch of the conservative "Citizens for America" group—an organization that passes as "President Reagan's grass-roots lobby." But no one is really suggesting that Quentin is taking a look at Sala Burton's congressional seat. Says Kopp, "I am comfortable supporting (Ronald Reagan's) economic policies; he's on the right track. He's also on the right track as far as national security is concerned." ... Baseball commissioner Peter Ueberroth, a registered Republican thought to harbor political ambitions himself, has endorsed L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley, a Democrat, for reelection ... And in San Francisco there are those who would tell you that if and when Con Murphy leaves, Feinstein is thought to be looking at OCC director Frank Schober as a replacement for the chief, but I'd bet little money on it.

★ ★ ★

That recent city-wide poll conducted by the San Francisco Police Officers Association shows Board of Supervisors President John Molinari as the odds-on favorite of the Gay and Lesbian community to be the next mayor. In a field of seven (including Kopp, Nelder, Agnos, Renne, Hongisto and Con Murphy) Molinari received the highest positive rating of those Gay voters sampled. Supervisor Molinari was the choice of 52 percent of this group as Feinstein's replacement with the remaining 48 percent split among Renne, Agnos, Hongisto, and "undecided." While Quentin Kopp leads Molinari slightly in



Peace, Jobs, Justice. Those are the goals of big march planned this month. At recent fund-raiser were (l. from middle) Howard Wallace, Pat Norman, and host, Richard Hongisto. (Photo: Rink)

this crowded field, a possible run-off between Kopp and Molinari would seem to favor the Board president ... The *Oakland Tribune* had an editorial this week attacking the two AIDS-related regulations recently passed in England, where they are actually considering a quarantine of AIDS patients. Saying that English authorities are experiencing a "hysterical" reaction to the disease, the *Trib* cautions against such action and advised that the English public must benefit from adequate facts, "so the battle can go forth against the disease, not its victims."

Supervisor Dick Hongisto's running feud with Mayor Feinstein seems to be hitting a new high. In the upcoming "Alice Reports," the newspaper of the Toklas Club, Hongisto compared the Mayor's actions—vetoes and non-signings of recent Hongisto resolutions—to that of "Governor Deukmejian's veto last year of AB-1." At City

Hall, one of Feinstein's top aides passed the supervisor's latest blast off as that of "a desperate politician trying to gain some print to help in a planned campaign for mayor" ... In New York, Mayor Ed Koch announced a number of expanded services for AIDS patients in that city. Koch announced plans for additional housing for patients, more resources and staff for acute care at city hospitals, medical teams to coordinate a patient's treatment in and out of the hospital, and an educational campaign. In New York City, which has 39 percent of the nation's AIDS cases, more than \$31 million has been spent in the last year on the AIDS crisis and the new services will cost an additional \$6 million a year. Gay groups in New York City applauded the Mayor's announcement, and at a news conference, the Mayor said his administration has made it clear "that it will not tolerate discrimination," Koch said, "some people

have charged that my administration has not done enough for AIDS victims because, they say, I am afraid that, if we did more, I would be linked with homosexuality. Nothing could be more vile, nothing could be more ridiculous," Koch added that, "Regrettably, in our society over the years, one technique used in order to seek to slander an individual is to simply accuse that individual of homosexuality; these charges are made even more frequently if the person to be deterred is a single individual over the age of 40 and unmarried (which Koch is); it is an outrageous charge because in many cases it is untrue and, even if true, is irrelevant" ... Police Commissioner Jo Daly had to be heartened by the reception she received when introduced last Sunday at the opening game of the Gay Softball League—showing that many in the Gay community appreciate the efforts that Daly is putting into what must be a thankless job.

GUEST COLUMN

A Bright Light

by John Stone

He got out of prison and he wrote a book about it. They made a movie. Some people forgot the crimes he had committed. Two murders.

He had come to the square in July, 1986 to make a speech. He claimed to be the man who had saved San Francisco from the faggots.

The people in the hardware stores couldn't figure it out. They sold more mirror tiles that weekend than they usually do in a year. The stores in the city had sold out by Saturday. By Sunday afternoon, the East Bay, Peninsula, and Marin stores were out too. No one had ever seen anything like it.

He stood on a platform erected in front of the steps of City Hall. The fog hadn't burned off yet. There was a huge crowd and police on horseback. The introduction was to be by a certain fundamentalist who spent five minutes belching and farting his hatred-as-religion. Then the former supervisor stepped up to the podium to try to revive his political career in his old home town.

It was clear from his speech that he thought he was a hero. The macho salvation for the



city. For five years in prison, he had kept himself pure of the psychiatric care he so desperately needed. Now he stood again under that majestic dome that had already seen too much of his misery.

The sun broke through the summer fog. Five thousand mirrors appeared in the crowd, each pointing an accusing finger of light at the murderer. His clothes burst into flame. He tried to run, but the avenging light followed. The flesh melted from his bones. The figure collapsed on the burning stage.

Five thousand mirrors crashed to the ground as the crowd dispersed in all directions. Justice had finally been done. ■

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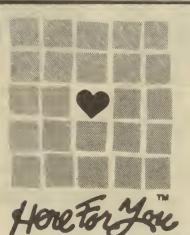
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DATELINE: THE WORLD

Gays Win Again In Supreme Court



DION B. SANDERS

upon their arrival in Havana, until they are determined not to have AIDS.

The first 23 of the returning Mariel refugees were handcuffed upon their arrival at Havana's Jose Marti Airport, chained around their ankles and taken to a detention center, where they will remain in quarantine.

Cuban officials said that to date, there have been no cases of AIDS reported there, and that they are determined "to keep it out."

Most of the returning refugees are criminals who have spent time in U.S. prisons where homosexual rape is a common practice among inmates.

Many of the estimated 125,000 Cuban refugees in the 1980 Mariel boatlift were Gay men whom Cuba said it would not take back.

Meanwhile, in Washington, the Immigration and Naturalization Service gave assurances to two Gay rights organizations that Cuban refugees would not be sent back solely because of allegations of homosexuality.

In letters to the National Gay Task Force and the Gay Rights National Lobby, INS Deputy Assistant Commissioner R. Michael Miller said that no "Marielito" would be subject to deportation on the basis of sexual orientation, "unless he or she had made an unequivocal, unambiguous declaration that he or she is a homosexual."

But given Cuba's adamant refusal to accept any out-of-the-closet Gays back into the country, INS officials would be in a quandary. "You can't deport somebody to a country that won't accept him," an NGTF spokesman said.

★ ★ ★

Boston Bar Cleared of Charges of Race Bias

Charges of race discrimination against a Boston Gay bar accused of keeping out a Black would-be patron have been dismissed by the Boston Licensing Board.

The board found no evidence that the Chaps bar discriminated against an unidentified Black man last December when it denied him admission after he failed to produce two pieces of photo identification.

Three White men who accompanied him were allowed to enter without being asked for their IDs, according to the Boston chapter of Black and White Men Together, which brought the charges against the bar.

Refusing to enter Chaps without their Black companion, the three Whites went to another bar, where all four were admitted without being carded.

Joe Kirby, owner-manager of Chaps, testified that the man was denied entry because "he looked about 18 or 19," not because of his race. Massachusetts' drinking age is 20. "The others were obviously older than 20," Kirby said.

"This is not a case of prejudice," Kirby told the board. "20 percent of my customers are Black, and of my 20 employees, six are Black."

The board fined two other bars after charges of race discrimination were substantiated. ■

Supes Give Okay to Gays' Peaks Home

Kopp Wants an Explanation Of 'Irregular' City Atty. Action

by Will Snyder and Brian Jones

After six public hearings, two courtroom disputes, and two weeks before the city Board of Supervisors, Gay architect Ron Katz may proceed to build on his three lots on Twin Peaks.

The supervisors voted 7-2 Monday to back Katz after a two-and-one-half hour hearing. The supervisor's hearing was marked by shouting and, at one point, speakers trying to grab models of Twin Peaks homes from each others' grasp.

The approval came only after Supervisor Quentin Kopp demanded an explanation of "irregular" action on the part of City Attorney George Agnost. It was revealed at Monday's hearing that Agnost's office had ordered the Department of Public Works to withhold the release of a public document important to the Katz case.

Hovering in the background through the 7-month dispute between Katz and some of his future neighbors was the spectre of prejudice. Katz, who is Jewish and Gay, has a Black lover. Neighbors vehemently denied any such motivations. And Gay supervisor Harry Britt, who backed Katz, said, "I want to make it clear I have not seen any evidence of prejudice against Mr. Katz . . . but the city has messed up very badly in this whole affair."

Subtle homophobia in the city attorney's office, rather than blatant prejudice on the part of the neighbors, may have set the stage for the extraordinary dispute. Greg Day, issues chair of the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club, appeared at the hearing with a club resolution calling the handling of the Katz case "prejudicial."

Later, Day said "subtle homophobia" on the part of City Attorney George Agnost's staff may have been the biggest barrier to Katz. Because the City Attorney's office knew Katz was Gay, Jewish and had a Black lover, "they may have felt he didn't have any power to fight back," Day said.

Certainly, Katz' property was handled differently than surrounding parcels—and differently than any of the other 500 permit appeals made since he bought his property in 1981.

'The city has messed up very badly in this whole affair.'

—Harry Britt

Katz pointed out at Monday's hearing that the lots on which he intended to build three single-family homes were between 30 and 40 percent larger than required. In the surrounding neighborhood, however, there were 11 lots substandard in size.

Katz pointed out that one of his leading opponents had won eight variances for her own home.

Before the dispute culminated at the full Board of Supervisors—an almost unheard-of procedure—the Board of Permit Appeals had backed Katz 4-0. Also, a Municipal Court judge had denied neighbors a temporary restraining order to block Katz' plans.

Katz alleged that neighbors "have made many misstatements, exaggerations and acts of omission in this affair, which all add up to bad faith and an attempt to trick people."

This was supported by one of the neighbors, Florence Murphy, who originally had signed a petition opposing Katz, then changed her mind.

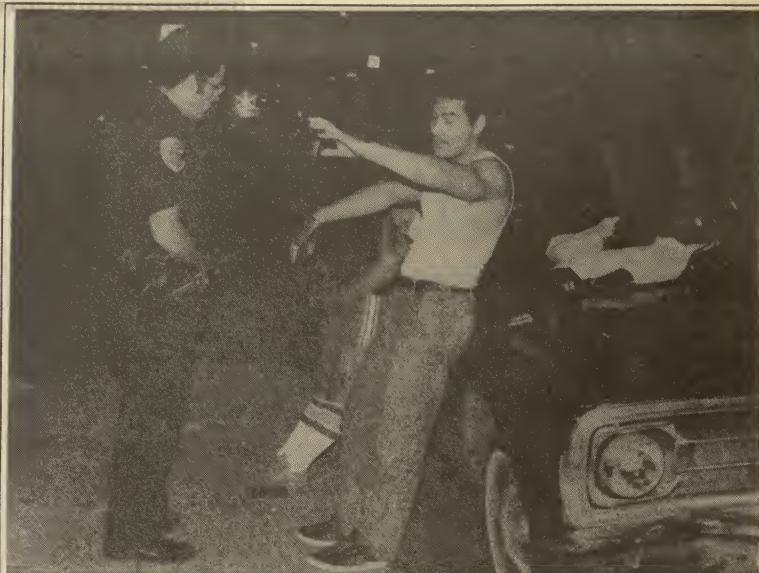
"Initially, I signed the petition because we were advised that Katz was building a multi-family housing project. Well I did a little homework and got involved and found out this wasn't so at all. When I started asking questions, I was just frozen out by the other neighbors," Murphy said.

Dorice Murphy, a long-time San Francisco neighborhood activist, said she supported Katz because she claimed that in 25 years, "I have never known a person who has been selectively persecuted and prosecuted as has happened to Ron Katz."

In the end, only Supervisors Wendy Nelder and Nancy Walker opposed the Katz plan. Nelder said the "issue was bigger" than the rights of Katz or the neighborhood: "The issue is whether drivers coming down over the Peaks on Twin Peaks Boulevard will have their view interfered with," Nelder said.

Walker said Katz had "Chosen his own poison" by trying to pursue his plan in the face of bitter neighborhood opposition. "He certainly doesn't seem to be bad off financially," Walker said in explaining her vote.

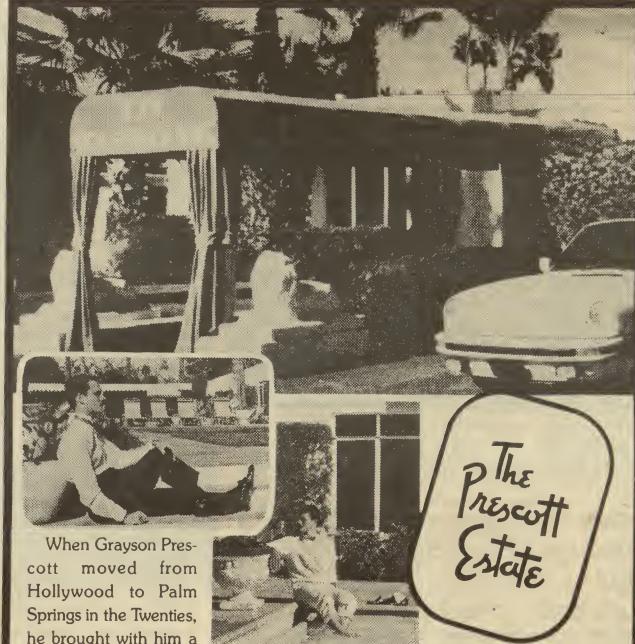
Katz said he understood Nelder's vote but was furious at Walker. Katz said Walker had refused to meet with him to hear his side of the dispute—although Walker was briefed by the opposing side. Dottie Crowder, a key opponent of Katz' plans, is a public relations agent who works on Walker's political campaigns.



Castro Confrontation

Two young men were among five arrested at approximately 10:30 p.m. Monday and accused of attacking at least one Gay man on Castro Street. Witnesses said the five men first boarded the 24 Divisadero bus at 17th Street, riding only one block to 18th Street, yelling "faggot" and other epithets. Police arrived as a crowd was gathering to surround two of the five men. These two were arrested and a cane (bottom photo) was confiscated. Three other young men were arrested two blocks further east on 18th Street.

Photos and report by Rink.



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George Agnost (Photo: Rink)

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Labor, Poor, Peace Groups Ask Gay Support for Big March

April 20 Is the Date for Mass Demonstration To Protest Reagan, Right Wing Policies

by George Mendenhall

Thousands of Lesbians and Gay men are being asked to participate in what may be the largest anti-Reagan administration demonstration since the President took office in 1981. It will begin with an April 20 march from the Ferry Building up Market Street and conclude with a huge Civic Center demonstration. Over 100,000 people may be participating.

Organizers say that if disenfranchised and minority people do not unite now, they will be increasingly hurt by being deprived of civil rights and essential fiscal help in the next four years.

Norman has also been named as m.c. for the Civic Center rally. She will share those duties on the speakers' platform with Jack Henning, president of the California Labor Federation.

This time the Gays are at the top of the leadership of the "Spring Mobilization for Peace, Jobs and Justice" with Lesbian health advocate Pat Norman on the steering committee and Gay labor leader Howard Wallace serving as a paid staff coordinator.

People in the Lesbian and Gay contingent will be marching for additional AIDS funding and against oppressive immigration policies, violence against Gay people and continuing insensitivity by the Reagan administration to all Lesbian and Gay rights issues.

"The Lesbian and Gay community was actually sought after," Norman said, "for our consciousness on political issues and our expertise. We are now fully recognized by the traditional anti-war activists, religious leaders, and every ethnic and minority group as part of this movement. There have been no negative experiences—we are welcome."

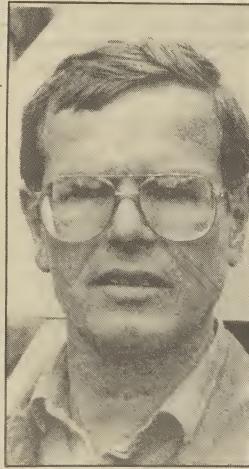
Wallace emphasized, "Previously Lesbians and Gay men were on the fringes and allowed to have Gay contingents in such demonstrations but were rarely upfront about being Gay in leadership positions. Sometimes we have had to fight to get Gay speakers on the platform as speakers. That has now changed and I believe it has changed for all time because of this event."

The march organizers stress "Human needs, starting with the right to earn a decent living and with an end to racial and sexual discrimination. The federal deficit, fueled by a bloated and growing military budget, can be cut by reassigning priorities for human needs instead of war."

Demonstrations will be opposing U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean, a freeze and reversal of the nuclear arms race, a re-emphasis on helping the poor with jobs and justice, and end to U.S. support for South African apartheid.

Wallace stressed, "It is time for women, Blacks, Gays and Latinos to recognize that we have a common enemy—that social gains we have achieved over several decades are being wiped out overnight. Gay people must begin to realize that we have a great deal to lose if we don't begin now to unite with others. It is no accident that people such as Jerry Falwell and Phyllis Schlafly are welcome at the White House and are supporting the administration."

Mobilization volunteers are distributing over 8,000 posters



Howard Wallace (Photo: Rink)



Pat Norman (Photo: Rink)

the urge necessary for coalition building that will have a long-range effect after the April 20 event is over."

The equally enthusiastic Norman urged every Lesbian and Gay man to plan to take part in the April 20 march because by doing so "we support ourselves. We are involved in every level of the world's problems. It is all related and we must increasingly let people know that we are not just a single-issue people but that we care and we are aware."

For further information, or to volunteer, call the Spring Mobilization at 771-0882 or stop by their offices at 240 Golden Gate Ave., Room 112, in San Francisco.

Dignity Elects New Officers

At its general elections held on March 3, the membership of Dignity/San Francisco formally voted Sophie Miranda and John Salazar co-chairs of the organization. Both Miranda and Salazar had previously been appointed to the positions of co-chairs by the board of directors to serve an interim term.

Miranda, a banking executive, has been an active member of Dignity for three years. Prior to her appointment as co-chair, she served as one of two directors-at-large and was instrumental in establishing the Women's Concerns Committee. She stated that her commitment to Dignity is based on "the existence of a real need to minister to Gay Catholics who have been ignored or downgraded by the Church."

Salazar, an attorney, has been an active member of Dignity for two years and served as director-at-large before his appointment to the co-chair position. In his former position, Salazar was responsible for organizing Dignity's Social Justice Committee. He thanked Dignity for being "extremely helpful to me personally on my spiritual journey. My active participation in Dignity's spiritual and social community is the best way for me to help others in their most

difficult journey as Lesbian and Gay Catholics."

Also elected on March 3, were D. Kollaja, treasurer, Lee Jarnigan, secretary, and Michael Vernon and Chris Peck, directors-at-large.

★ ★ ★

New ACLU Handbooks Available

The American Civil Liberties Union has published two new legal handbooks. *The Rights of Young People* explains how the law treats children and adolescents differently from adults. The book answers questions on employment, custody, abuse, and the right to birth control. Another ACLU handbook, *The Rights of Single People*, deals with the legal problems that single people face on the job as well as the contract and property rights of unmarried couples.

Both handbooks cost \$4.95 each, plus \$1 for postage and handling. They may be ordered from the Literature Dept., ACLU, 132 W. 43rd St., New York, NY 10036.



Pedaling for Pride are these members of Different Spokes. Bike-a-thon kicks off this weekend. (Photo: Rink)

Lt. Gov. McCarthy Addresses Gay PAC

First in Series of Forums Draws Standing-Room-Only Crowd

by Allen White

California Lt. Governor Leo McCarthy spoke to a standing-room-only crowd Thursday, March 28 at a Bay Area Non-Partisan Alliance breakfast. The event was the first in a series of breakfasts planned to raise money for the political action committee and provide a forum for views by political officials.

This first meeting was geared to a small crowd of only 50 people. The Alliance organizers were amazed when they realized there was no additional room in the meeting area to add chairs. The several dozen who had to stand gave strong indications that there is interest in this type of Gay fundraising organization. The breakfast charge is \$15 and they hope to quickly expand to an audience of several hundred in size.

Like its Southern California counterpart, MECLA (Municipal Elections Committee of Los Angeles), the Alliance is created with the primary purpose of raising funds to support political candidates on the local and state level who are sympathetic to the cause of Gay and Lesbian rights.

Last year, the Alliance was able, through its activities, to give more money to political candidates than any of the local Democratic or Republican political clubs. This new organization is anticipated to grow as people choose the option of a political action committee for their political contributions.

The effect of this type of organization is totally different than the local political clubs. The three major Gay Democratic clubs and the one Gay Republican club had agendas that encompass many other areas than just fundraising. The Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club and the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club are the two largest Democratic clubs in the State of California.

The Alliance invited the top elected Democrat in California as its first speaker. McCarthy is second to the Governor in rank, is President of the State Senate, is a Regent of the University of California and serves as the chair of several state commissions.

The symbolic appearance of



Addresses Gay PAC. Lt. Gov. Leo McCarthy makes a point at Alliance breakfast. (Photo: Rink)

The Lt. Governor of California was of much more importance than the actual speech he gave to his audience. The subject was "The Future of the California Economy." For the most part he focused on the growth of the state economy, creative business concepts and the impact of international trade.

His primary thrust to the Gay audience was to get involved in the broad spectrum of change taking place in the state. His message carried significance because it directly challenged Gay men and Lesbians to become a more visible partner in the vibrant California economy.

The subject of economy and money is exactly what the Alliance members had in mind

Pedaling to the River For SF AIDS Foundation

Different Spokes Takes On 100-Mile Course as Fundraiser

A novel response to the AIDS epidemic is planned to "pedal-off" on Saturday, April 6. Different Spokes, the Lesbian and Gay bicycling club, has initiated a fundraising effort with the San Francisco AIDS Foundation by cycling 100 miles from San Francisco to Guerneville.

Though the riding is important, even more crucial are those who can't ride but can pledge a dime, a quarter, a dollar or more for every mile that a rider covers. At 10 cents per mile, it is a donation of \$10 one would make to sponsor a rider all the way to the Russian River. A group of four friends each adding 25 cents per mile for a rider means that \$100 could be generated for the Foundation's educational and direct service efforts.

"It's really you, me and every other resident of this city who will put this event on," notes Ken Jones, Director of Volunteer Services for the AIDS Foundation. "If 100 riders each carried 50 pledges for 100 miles at only 10 cents per mile, it would generate \$50,000 to assist the AIDS Foundation in keeping up with the demands of the epidemic."

Additionally, 2,000 pledge invitations have been sent to office-holders, political organizations and community groups, asking for a \$200 sponsor-pledge of an individual rider. A spon-

sorship of this amount results in a rider riding with the name of that organization or political person emblazoned on a special vest being worn for the ride. It is hoped that a significant amount of money will be generated this way also.

The event is being underwritten by generous donations from all over the Bay Area. Fern Grove, Fife, Wildwood Resort and the Highlands in Guerneville have donated overnight accommodations for Bike-a-Thon participants. The Woods Resort has donated its site for the AIDS Foundation's "Volunteer Appreciation Party" the following day, Sunday, April 7. The Sunday event will feature the world premiere showing of *Pedaling Pride in '85* video segments, community recognition of volunteers, the awarding of prizes, free food, drinks and entertainment.

For more information on the event and to become a sponsor/pledger, contact the San Francisco AIDS Foundation at (415) 864-4376. ■

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THE
AIDS
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PROJECT

Great Balls o' Fire! A New Way to Do It

Strap Yourself in for a Bout
Of Latest Rage: Scrotal Frenzy

Last in a Series

by Richard Locke

Ball fucking is another non-mucosa sexual activity. It can be accomplished with or without accessories. I use a leather strap about nine feet long which I wrap around not only my ball sack, but also the "Fourex" (condom) on my cock. Don't use a rubber condom, as these are cheap and liable to break or come off. The strap can be purchased at Mr. S Leathers on 7th Street in San Francisco.

The strap enables me to have more control over my balls while I'm ball fucking. It also makes the sack into a shaft with a bulbous end. It makes for less pain for the top, and the bottom, at the time of insertion.

The strap should be softened and very well lubricated; the leather can be harsh to the sensitive sphincter and anal membrane. It is best to shower with the strap in place when you do your final scrub. The water softens the leather and the microbicide scrub makes sure it is clean.

Ball fucking can go on for hours according to the stamina of the partners. With the "Fourex" in place it is a simple task to insert the cock right in alongside your balls. If your partner is adept his own balls can be thrust into himself as well. Now, that is a tight fuck.

Four balls rubbing against your cock makes it difficult to keep from orgasm. Pull out if you can't control it. Never come inside somebody even if you're wearing a "Fourex." Why take chances?

The only time its permissible to allow semen into another is to have a baby. It must be remembered that there are over one hundred babies with AIDS, so even making babies is not a good excuse.

The strap can be worn every day to train your ball sack for eventual insertion into your own ass. Although my ball sack is long, it's not quite long enough to go into my ass, etc. I'm still working on that too.

Since this series started in the B.A.R. I have had many comments. The most frequently asked question was about ball fucking. H.L. Menken said that the way to make a million was a new "perversion" or a new religion. I think perversion is its own reward.

The use of condoms is still up for debate. In my opinion, if it doesn't come off (which the rubber condom is prone to do), if it doesn't break (which the rubber condom is prone to do), then you are most probably "safe." The "Fourex" is made from the gut of sheep; it is a membrane. I blew one up and it stayed turgid for 12 weeks without losing any air. Dr. Marcus Conant in the *San Francisco Chronicle* over a month ago in an interview used my analogy concerning the efficacy of condoms.

On Valentine's day the SF AIDS Foundation passed rubber condoms out on Polk Street and Castro Street. I think the evidence is in. If nothing else, the risk is much lower when the condom is used. With imagination condoms can be very pleasurable. Some people say

"Well, they are uncomfortable." I say, "A coffin is infinitely more uncomfortable." Then I hear "Well he doesn't want to wear one." I say "If he cares so little about his health and yours why do you want to fuck with him?" Try it you might like it and it may save your life and those you care about.

Drugs and alcohol can set you up for sex acts that can be very dangerous. Reduce your risk by reducing your intake, either by dosage or by frequency. The lower the intake the lower the risk.

In California, state law delegates that what consenting adults do in private is their own business. I don't advocate the use of any drugs; I only ask that you concern yourself with lowering risks. If you use needles don't use needles, no matter what. If you use drugs use them at home, make a date and use good common sense. If you use good common sense you won't do it.

I left San Francisco in 1973 because many of my friends were dead or dying of drug abuse; some of my friends are still killing themselves with drugs. Drugs are a part of our lives from aspirins and coffee to over-the-counter drugs and underground drugs. You are the responsible person in your life for everything you do. You are the consenting adult.

With AIDS in our lives, drugs become even more dangerous than ever before. The scientists are finding in their investigations that there are co-factors at work with the virus, variously known as LAV (by the French), HTLV-3 (by a Dr. Gallo), and ARV (by a San Francisco research firm). It is unknown what co-factors are important, or what relationship the co-factors represent.

If the co-factors are the key then we may very well be at very high risk. A co-factor could be repeated exposure to the virus ("many different partners"), stress due to an 18-hour workday, bad diet, not enough rest, diet cola (non-nutritive foods), and/or drugs, in combination or by themselves, or any number of other things, including genetics. If drugs are involved then all drugs should be kept to a minimum.

For instance, "Flagyl," an often misprescribed drug for amoebic dysentery, is a poison. To get rid of amoebas one begins to poison oneself. It is better not to get the amoebas to begin with, by using sensible sex techniques, than it is to poison oneself and take the risk of having that co-factor bring on AIDS.

There is much more to be said about drugs but I don't feel qualified to really go into depth. Drugs can be lethal, recreational, or prescription or otherwise. Please use your good common sense.

★ ★ ★

Next week I hope to have some comments from the readers. Criticisms as well as techniques of safe sex that you the readers would like to share. I'm hoping the response will be informative. ■



Button Up Your Overcoat. The forecast says it's raining men. (Photo: Rink)



BITCH IN HEAT

In Search of Safe Sex

BRIAN JONES

Beejay has finally gone to the limit for safe sex. On Sunday night he made it with a soap-on-a-rope shaped like a penis. And a good-sized piece it was too.

How did it come to this?

The forces of safety have won. Beejay's libido has lost. The surrender was unconditional. Thanks to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Beejay can no longer keep a hard-on.

Well this is an exaggeration of course; of course because this is a newspaper column and newspaper columnists always exaggerate. Beejay can't keep it up only when attempting certain sexual activities. It is not incidental that these are the activities enumerated on the handy, wallet-sized "Safe-Unsafe Sex" cards.

Probably the highest tribute that can be made to the AIDS Foundation is that they could keep Beejay's cock down. Beejay is not amused; but willing to accept, resignedly, the judgment of that ultimate arbiter: the cockhead.

Beejay has gone to great lengths in search of safe sex, and so now lengths have gone to him. Tit for tat or something like that. He was hanging in the copse all weekend, covered with the midday sun and surrounded by bushes—bushes and men. The men came all over his towel and he did too. Why is it always his towel?

Beejay took to putting his home phone number on the "Safe-Unsafe Sex" handy wallet-sized cards. Nobody ever, ever dials the phone number, but Beejay considers his proselytizing to be socially redeeming. On the days when he feels naughty, he writes the number on the "Unsafe" side.

situation which in days past would have been the siren's song for Beejay. But now, he found himself paralyzed, back against a stud, spine ramrod straight. The libido was willing but the knees were weak. They may have been knocking but what with the music you couldn't tell for sure.

The man who dragged him home bit Beejay too hard on the tits and made him sore but Beejay got over it, and off on it. It happened on a L.A. bed. That's a bed with designer shrouds and disco lights surrounding it. Beejay remembers thinking that if they ever outlaw tit work he would indeed go over the bridge.

This was all only prologue for Sunday's fiasco, or victory. Heading to the softball game, he encountered the man he once considered the Top Bottom Around. A date was made. It would of course focus on fucking.

Beejay is a top, which means little these days.

This turn of affairs had come about in May 1983 when Beejay's doctor advised, "Wear your keys on the left until this blows over." Beejay had always been ambivalent. "Ambivalent" doesn't mean apathetic, but rather, having strong feelings both ways. That was Beejay. Friday nights he had theme nights at the baths: for example, "if you're Black, you can fuck me; if you're white, I'll fuck you." And so on.

The AIDS Foundation found its way to Beejay's butthole 18 months before it reached his dick. To use a phrase common in the South, where Beejay grew up, "My asshole clamped shut on that one." With visions of handy, wallet-sized "Unsafe-Safe Sex" cards dancing in his head—a vision that reached diabolical dimensions under the influence of poppers—Beejay had become incapable of taking a dick up the ass. And so he had become a top, which meant little.

How little it means was demonstrated on Sunday as our hero vainly tried to get it up. Oh, it wasn't that he couldn't get it up—he did get it up, slapping it on that great ass, and etcetera. But every time it was slide ho, it went "oh no."

The bottom blamed himself, as bottoms do, and the top said "oh posh," as tops do (or something like that). It was at that moment that Beejay realized he was no longer capable of inserting organ C into orifice A. No go. Somewhere in the switching panel of his head, a circuit breaker had been yanked out. Those insidious handy, wallet-sized "Safe-Unsafe Sex" cards had infiltrated his private-most parts: the cerebro-genital freeway. All traffic was blocked.

Beejay tried to explain this—tried to explain this gently, trying mostly to forgive himself. But then you can't argue with the head of your dick. So, he headed for the shower.

Well, I'm not about to repeat the end of this story. You heard it at the beginning. Beejay never heard that you're not supposed to pick up the soap. ■

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CIA Policy Upheld

(Continued from page 1)

The Gayer case involves the Central Intelligence Agency, which is processing his three-year attempt to get a higher security clearance. The CIA claims that even to reveal its reason why Gayer is not getting the new classification might jeopardize the federal government because this might involve revealing what company is designing a surveillance listening device. The case is so cloaked in secrecy that a government courier delivered a 20-page memo on Gayer to the appeals panel, which read the memo in secret.

Gayer believes the simple truth is that the CIA fears him because it believes that Gay people are security risks. His homosexuality became public in

the 1960s when Gayer became an openly Gay activist. In a 1983 policy statement (B.A.R., March 21) the agency stressed its belief that Gay people are a risk because of possible "undue influence, direct blackmail, or coercion."

The Gayer case goes beyond his personal appeal as it was filed as a "class" action, involving thousands of Gay people—many of them in California—in similar situations. The special clearance that he seeks involves a possible 40,000 people (out of 250,000 who have lower level clearances).

The employer makes the application, naming certain employees. Later, the government informs the employer that certain people are unacceptable. The employer then withdraws the application, and the em-

ployee is never informed. Thus there is no official denial and no opportunity for an employee to legally challenge the denial.

Gayer stresses that by denying his appeal, the appeals judges also denied the entire "class," without considering the injustice that is continuing for thousands of people who are systematically being denied due process. When he appeals, this will be one of his arguments.

SURVEILLANCE

Appeals Justice Thomas Tang encouraged Gayer during the March 14 hearing here when he stated, "It seems to me that this (the refusal to tell Gayer why he cannot get a higher clearance) is complete stonewalling. Does this man have any right to due process at all?" However, Tang joined with justices William Canby and Joseph Sneed in dismissing Gayer's case after they read the government's secret document on Gayer.

The activist urges, "What this indicates is that I am under continuing investigation because of my Gay civil liberty activities. I am evidently a 'trouble maker' who might reveal secret information to the press. But they cannot tell me this because to tell me would put me on guard. This surveillance of me may continue forever."

Gayer believes the appeal judges were "dazzled by seeing classified information. They may not understand it—but they take the government's word for it. There may be deliberate lies and falsifications but I am not allowed to see them. The government can do as it damn pleases."

Ironically, Gayer believes much of the super secret nature of this may involve the designing of equipment "that the public can now purchase at a sophisticated electronics store." He adds, "much of these classifications are just an attempt to keep the public in ignorance

about how its government is functioning, of what it is doing—to avoid its own embarrassment."

The future concerns Gayer as he asks, "Am I—and others—blackballed with other companies doing business with the government? Are we on some sort of list that will deny us employment elsewhere in the future because we are Gay?"

When asked what the future holds for those in his position, Gayer urged, "The military runs itself and is not responsible to anyone. Congress would not change it. There is no hope in the courts. A strong, liberal President—maybe Ted Kennedy—could do it with a simple executive order." Until then, Gayer intends to continue to publicly expose the government's continuing discrimination against Gay people.

G. Mendenhall



WHAT DOES EXPOSURE TO THE AIDS VIRUS MEAN?

A common excuse for continuing the practice of Unsafe Sex is: "I was exposed to AIDS a long time ago. Either I'm already going to get it or I'm immune. Why practice safer sex now?"

What does exposure to the AIDS virus mean? Does it mean that AIDS is inevitable? Does exposure to the AIDS virus make you immune to AIDS? Or do repeated exposures only increase the risk of contacting and spreading the disease?

Here's what Robert Bolan, M.D., Chairman of the Board of the AIDS Foundation, has to say about exposure to the AIDS virus:

We don't know how much of the virus is needed for AIDS to result.

"Any infectious agent must get into the body in sufficient numbers to overcome the body's defenses. This is called a virus 'load.' We don't know how much of an AIDS virus load is needed for disease to result. We don't know if this load can be acquired at one time, or if many exposures may be necessary.

"By continuing Unsafe Sex practices, you virtually assure that you will be repeatedly exposed. It's a dangerous risk."

The state of your health can play an important role.

"If you are exposed to an infectious agent with a long incubation period

AIDS SAFE SEX GUIDELINES

Safe
Massage, Hugging
Mutual Masturbation
Social Kissing (Dry)
Body-To-Body Rubbing (Frottage)
Possibly Safe
French Kissing (Wet)
Anal Intercourse With Condom
Sucking—Stop Before Climax
Watersports—External Only
Cunnilingus
Unsafe
Anal Intercourse Without Condom
Semen or Urine In Mouth
Sharing Sex Toys
Blood Contact
Rimming
Fisting
Vaginal Intercourse Without Condom

© Bay Area Physicians For Human Rights (1984)

(like tuberculosis), the state of your health following exposure can play an important part in determining whether or not you will become ill with the disease, or if so, how ill you will become. This may also be the case for AIDS viruses.

"Continued Unsafe Sex will expose you to other viruses and bacteria which can further weaken your immune system. A weakened immune system provides less resistance to the AIDS virus. Also, co-factors such as alcohol, drug use, nutrition, and stress may play a role."

It may not be possible to develop an immunity to AIDS.

"There is evidence that the AIDS virus may be unstable and changing rapidly.

Even if an immunity is developed to one virus, it may not protect against a slightly different virus. It may not be possible to develop an immunity to AIDS.

"This type of phenomenon is seen in other viruses, too. The Influenza A virus, for example, changes slowly over time. The changing virus is the reason for major flu epidemics every few years."

No one can calculate your chances of getting AIDS.

Remember, there are many variables involved in contracting and spreading AIDS. The virus may be unstable and changing. The state of your health varies from day to day. And repeated, unsafe exposures increase your risk.

Using the past as an excuse to take risks today is a dangerous gamble. If we want to stop the spread of AIDS, we have to stop making excuses. We have to stop practicing Unsafe Sex.



For more information about AIDS prevention, call the San Francisco AIDS Foundation: (415) 863-AIDS Toll-Free in No. CA (800) FOR-AIDS TTY (415) 864-6606

ON THE OFF BEAT

Taking It To the Courts

MIKE HIPPLER



History is often made—or at least influenced—in the most obscure places. Above a small Italian restaurant on Castro Street, in a suite of renovated offices that was once the home of an Irish working class family, staff members of National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA) routinely make decisions that will ultimately affect thousands of Gay people across America.

Whether Gay foreigners may enter this country, whether Gay people may serve in the military, whether Lesbian mothers and Gay fathers may retain custody of their children, and, most recently, whether Gay people may teach in public schools—all these are issues whose outcomes depend largely on work that has been done in the offices of NGRA.

NGRA is a non-profit, public interest law firm that takes legal action in areas of concern to Lesbians and Gay men in order to achieve constitutional protections for all Gay people. Founded in 1976 in San Francisco by Don Knutson, a former law professor at the University of Southern California, it is staffed by only three people—Jean O'Leary, the Executive Director (and former head of the National Gay Task Force); Ron Ranum, the Administrative Manager; and Leonard Graff, the Legal Director.

Graff is the only lawyer who works full-time for the organization, but he said, "The reason that we're able to do such an incredible amount of work is because our network of volunteer attorneys donate their time"—including founder Knutson, who is now "basically" retired but does work on an *ad hoc* basis as he sees fit.

The value of the time that these attorneys donate in the course of a year amounts to nearly two million dollars, estimated Graff, and the money that is thus saved is used for other things—court filing fees, deposition transcripts, out-of-pocket expenses, and, of course, rent and staff salaries.

The organization operates on a budget of only \$200,000 a

year, and this money comes almost entirely from membership dues, private contributions, and a few fund-raising events. Two foundations, the Playboy Foundation and the Chicago Foundation, also furnish money through grants, but no client is ever charged for services.

The kind of work that NGRA spends this money on is called "impact litigation," as opposed to direct representation. "Direct representation," explained Graff, "is when an individual client comes to us and says, 'I think my employer discriminated against me because I'm Gay.' If he lives in San Francisco, we send him to a private lawyer, for there is already a law here that prohibits that kind of discrimination, and what he needs is a lawyer to help enforce that law," Graff said.

"What we try to do is to make new law, to expand and create additional protection for Lesbians and Gay men where it doesn't already exist. We try to establish a precedent that's going to affect the larger Gay community, not just this one individual. There's a much larger issue involved."

Because the biggest base of the organization's financial and membership support is in San Francisco, however, and because the organization feels it is important to demonstrate to its contributors and supporters the kind of work it is doing, occasionally NGRA will become involved in what Graff called "enforcement work."

NGRA has a suit pending now against the Catholic archdiocese of San Francisco, for instance, on behalf of Dick Kramer's Gay Men's Chorale. Some time ago the Catholic church backed down from an agreement to let the Gay Men's Chorale perform at St. Ignatius, and NGRA is representing the Chorale because "it's important that institutions that are a part of the arts community not suffer from discrimination."

NGRA gets involved in cases in several ways. Usually it is asked to participate by one of the concerned parties. This is what

happened in its most celebrated recent case, the *Board of Education of Oklahoma City vs. the National Gay Task Force*, the first case involving Gay rights to come before the U.S. Supreme Court in 18 years.

When the state legislature of Oklahoma passed a statute in 1978 intending to eliminate Gay teachers from its public schools, Gay activists in Oklahoma approached the NEA and the AFT, national teachers' organizations, as well as the ACLU, for help, but none of these organizations, was willing to do anything other than to lobby against the bill before it was passed. In December 1978, therefore, the activists wrote the NGRA, and in January 1979 NGRA agreed to accept the case.



Full Court Press. Leonard Graff uses the law to push Gay rights from modest Castro office. (Photo: Rink)

never get a job teaching if he proceeded with the case, he dropped out, and NGRA was forced to ask the NGTF to be the plaintiff on behalf of its Oklahoma members.

This necessary tactic may have hurt the case immeasurably, for one of the questions that has been raised is whether or not a group like the NGTF can bring a suit on behalf of its members when no particular member has been fired for being Gay.

"We lost the case at the U.S. District Court level on those grounds," Graff said, but he notes the absurdity of the court's argument. That a plaintiff cannot be found for fear of injury should be proof enough that the case should be heard.

Benefit for Mobilization

"April Harvest '85," a springtime gathering of the San Francisco Bay Area's finest musical and comedy artists, will present a benefit performance as a fundraiser for Mobilization Against AIDS at Theatre On The Square, 450 Post Street on Monday, April 15 at 8 p.m.

Among the many celebrated performers who have agreed to appear in support of this worthy cause are comics Tom Ammiano and Darlene Popovic, both of whom recently received Cabaret Gold Awards as best comedy entertainers of 1984, and Weslia Whitfield, winner of the Gold Award for best female vocalist of 1984. Other award winners who are donating their talents for this event include Ruth Hastings and Co., Val Diamond, and the cast of "Champagne In A Cardboard Cup." Kimo, the Barbary Coast Cloggers, and the Chamber Singers from the Gay Men's Chorus will also have prominent spots on the program.

Coordinators of the show are hopeful that there will be surprise guest appearances by other well known artists. Tickets for "April Harvest" are available at Headlines, both the Castro and Polk Street stores, or may be purchased at the door on the night of the performance for \$15 and \$10. For further information call (415) 928-5598. ■

First Anniversary For FLAG

Federal Lesbians and Gays (FLAG) is observing the first anniversary of its founding with a celebration at the Victorian Hotel, 54-4th Street, on April 10 at 6 p.m. The group was formed to provide support in the workplace by seeking a work environment free from harassment or other inhibiting factors based upon sexual orientation. FLAG provides support, advice, employment information, and social activities. Monthly meetings feature speakers from all segments of the Lesbian, Gay and federal communities. Since its founding the group has seen new groups formed in Sacramento and Washington/Baltimore. For more information on FLAG contact them at 584 Castro St., #404, San Francisco, CA 94114 or call (415) 626-7273. ■

Jewish Gay Conference

Over 250 participants will attend the Ninth International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews, June 6-9, in Washington, D.C. Evelyn Torton Beck, editor of *Nice Jewish Girls*, A Lesbian Anthology, and U.S. Congressman Barney Frank (D., Mass.) will address the conference.

Workshops will include: liturgy which meets the needs of Gay and Lesbian Jews; women, Gays and Lesbians in the rabbinate; and the Holocaust—children of the survivors. Participants can look forward to social programs, Sabbath services, and a tour of Washington, D.C.

The conference will be held at the Omni-Shoreham Hotel and is co-sponsored by Bet Mishpachah, the Gay and Lesbian synagogue of Washington, D.C., and the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations.

Registration will be open until May 1. Further information and registration materials can be obtained from Bet Mishpachah, P.O. Box 1410, Washington, D.C. 20013, (202) 833-1638. ■

CHIROPRACTIC OUTLOOK



By DR. RICK PETTIT

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Later, Lawrence Tribe, a professor at Harvard and one of the nation's foremost scholars on constitutional law, became involved. It was Tribe who argued the case before the Supreme Court in January.

"Sure, it would have been fun for me to argue a case before the Supreme Court," admitted Graff, who graduated from law school less than 10 years ago. "But that's not the objective. The idea, the goal, is to win, and I don't mind at all taking a second seat to somebody of the caliber of Larry Tribe."

The problems that NGRA encountered in this case are indicative of the problems they face in others. Early in the game, Bill Rogers, the Oklahoma City attorney, was criticized by his firm for agreeing to participate in the suit, and he had to agree not to use his firm's name on any of the briefs he filed. Eventually, his firm forced him out of the partnership, and he became a victim of the very kind of discrimination he is working to prevent.

An unrelated problem concerned the lack of a plaintiff in the case. Originally, NGRA had a plaintiff, a man named Stan Easter, who had just graduated from college in Oklahoma and had been certified to teach. But when he realized that he would

statute is inherently injurious, he says.

Of course, the Oklahoma teachers case is only one of many that NGRA has pursued in the last few years. At any one time, said Graff, "We have a dozen or so cases working on our docket."

In recent months, NGRA has stopped an anti-Gay referendum from being placed on a Maryland ballot; has prevented Eastern Airlines from discriminating against Gay people in its hiring practices by threatening legal action; has filed a \$5 million discrimination suit against a Detroit employer; has challenged the Big Sisters Program for refusing to accept a Lesbian volunteer; has asked the Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. to review its decision against a Gay man who was discharged from the Navy; has forced the federal prison at Lompoc, Ca. to allow the distribution of Gay newspapers such as the *B.A.R.*; won a settlement against California MediCal involving people with AIDS which resulted in a savings of thousands of dollars to the City of San Francisco; and has won a five-figure settlement against State Senator John Briggs for slander.

Not all of these cases made it to the Supreme Court—some don't even make it to court at all—and not all of these cases are won, but this does not stop NGRA from trying.

When it comes to laws such as the one concerning Oklahoma teachers, said Graff, "We have to send a message to the government to say, 'Look, this is a dirty little law that is offensive to every Gay man and woman in America, and we're not going to take it.'"

Trial of Gay Reporter Ends With Testimony on 'Marriage'

Lovers' Relationship a Key Issue in Trial Of Columnist Who Leaked 'Inside Information'

by Morgan Pinney

NEW YORK—Openly Gay journalist R. Foster Winans took the witness stand in his own defense last week. It was a dramatic final week of testimony in the much-publicized *Wall Street Journal* "newsleak" trial. The relationship of Winans with his lover David Carpenter has played a key role in the defense, but received little mention in media reports of the trial.

Winans broke down in tears on the stand as he talked about how he violated journalistic ethics and betrayed his colleagues at the *Journal*. However, he remained resolute in his contention that he did not break any laws—and never intended to—when he leaked advance word of his upcoming *Journal* columns to millionaire stockbroker Peter Brant. Brant then used that information to make money on stock trading. Winans' column was so influential that it often affected the prices of stocks.

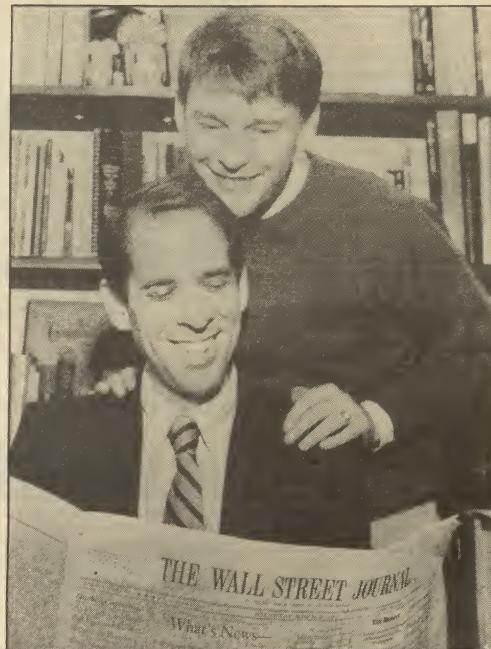
Winans had confessed all the details of the leaks more than a year ago, when the Securities and Exchange Commission began to ask questions. Therefore, the prosecutor was able to do little more than rehash the evidence, adding his own inuendos as to just how innocently Winans had entered into the scheme with Brant, or just how "journalistically pure" the columns had been. He never once denigrated the homosexual relationships brought out in the courtroom.

"Foster Winans is the most credible witness I have ever put on the stand in all my years practicing law," beamed defense attorney Don Buchwald optimistically, as the trial concluded. A minor setback had come earlier, however, as the judge denied a defense motion to throw the whole case out of court on the grounds that "insider trading" laws did not apply to a journalist who gathered public information and wrote about it—even if he did "leak" word of his writings before publication.

The judge's verdict will come in perhaps two months.

"Insider trading" usually refers to trading by someone who is privy to information obtained as an employee of the company whose stock is being traded. Never before have insider trading laws been applied to a journalist.

On the witness stand, Winans



Lovers on Trial. R. Foster Winans, former columnist (front) with his lover, David Carpenter. (Photo: Bettie Lane)

admitted to being naive as a relatively new *Journal* columnist in 1983, awed by Peter Brant's rich lifestyle. Winans claims that he leaked the pre-publication information at Brant's suggestion, and received some money, mainly to pay off his lover's medical bills, then, to make a downpayment on a house for them.

Brant had been the government's main prosecution witness and claimed that Winans had proposed the entire scheme. Other witnesses, however, characterized Brant as an habitual liar—a young man from Buffalo who made it big in Manhattan stock trading before the age of 30 and desperately wanted to protect his world of luxury condos, polo playing, and country club living when the market

turned sour in 1983.

Hours of Winans' testimony centered on his relationship with his lover David Carpenter. "It's just like a marriage," he told the judge. "Sometimes we have terrible fights and sometimes we are very supportive of each other." They were separated for a while but have lived together for most of the past 11 years, with Foster the principal breadwinner and David the principal homemaker.

In a stunning courtroom disclosure, it was revealed that, during the original interrogation, government prosecutors had attempted to squeeze an admission of criminal guilt from Winans by threatening to indict Carpenter, who had not been charged yet.

Carpenter was later indicted as a co-conspirator in the case and based his defense upon his "spousal relationship" with Winans, claiming little knowledge of the goings-on, even though he served as messenger between the parties and even received some payments in his name (which were deposited into a joint checking account with Winans). Winans said he never told Carpenter the details of his dealings with Brant, "because David was not interested in the things I did at work."

"No other wife or spouse has been put on trial in this case and David Carpenter should never have been indicted either," contended Jed Rakoff, who served as Carpenter's counsel. Gay rights attorneys around the country are fascinated by Rakoff's imaginative "spousal defense," calling it unique and unprecedented. They have been following the case closely.

Even if Winans and Carpenter win this case it will be a shallow victory. Their legal fees have already reached beyond six digits, they are unemployed, and they still face a civil trial—on exactly the same charges—which has been brought by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

DEATHS

Gary DeVietro

Gary DeVietro, 32, died on March 5, 1985 at Mount Zion Hospital of a blood infection due to AIDS.

A native of New York, Gary is survived by his mother, brother, sister and niece.

For further information, contact: 863-5403.

Orlando Luciano-Morales

Orlando Luciano-Morales, 38, died courageously at his home on March 22. With him were his dearest friends.

Orlando was a man full of love and enjoyed life immensely. His spirit remains alive within us.

Memorial service will be held at the Church of the Advent of Christ The King 261 Fell Street, San Francisco, April 13 at 3 p.m.

David Alan Hellman

My best friend has died. His long struggle was ended by progressive respiratory failure Sunday, 24 March 1985. David's 35th Birthday would have been 30 March.

David is survived by his large family of friends in the San Francisco Bay Area, San Diego and New York—also his loving grandmother of San Clemente, CA, his dear sister, Diane, and parents Jean and Harry Hellman, and many friends in Jamestown, North Dakota.

David loved to travel—now he is free . . .

His message to us all was: "That if you love someone, give them the flowers now."

I love you, David,

Mark Allyn Kokott

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Dear Abby Wins Award

The Gay Fathers Coalition International (GFCI) announced that newspaper advice columnist Abigail Van Buren, has been named to receive the organization's Image In Media award. Last year, television talk show host Phil Donahue received the award at a New York ceremony.

In making the announcement, Gene Santomasso, president of GFCI, noted that Van Buren, writing her column as "Dear Abby" since 1959, has given hope to thousands of Gay men in parenting roles. "Few media personalities have had as significant an impact upon the perception by Middle America, of Gays and Lesbians, as has Ms. Van Buren."

Writing her nationally-syndicated column for more than 1,000 newspapers around the world, Dear Abby reaches over

80 million readers daily. Many of her letters deal with Gay-related subjects, and her accepting and informative answers have helped open the minds of the world to the issues of Gay parenting.

From her Beverly Hills, California home, Ms. Van Buren said that she would accept the GFCI's Image In Media award in person during a dinner in her honor, on opening day of the GFCI's 6th Annual World Conference on May 31 in Los Angeles.

A pre-registration package is available at no cost from GFCI Conference Organizing Committee, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 109-346, Los Angeles, CA 90046. A 24-hour recorded information line (213) 871-1575, gives callers an opportunity to request conference information by return mail.

GREATER BAY NEWS

Services Available in East Bay For People Concerned With AIDS

by Charles Linebarger

Conservative estimates put the number of AIDS cases in Alameda County at over 100. Gay men in Oakland and Berkeley, as elsewhere, are at high risk and are becoming increasingly concerned.

Consider the case of Bill, who lives in Berkeley, as a case in point. Up until a year ago he used to visit the sex clubs in San Francisco on a frequent basis, and within the last month two of his acquaintances have been diagnosed with AIDS.

So far, Bill has remained well, but he is worried. Bill is a member of that growing legion of Gay men, the "worried well."

People such as Bill don't have to leave Alameda County to find support services for the worried well. The Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, offers a bi-monthly support group specifically for the worried well on the first and third Monday of every month, at 7:30 p.m. Individual counseling is also available at the Pacific Center for those who feel they need it to come to grips with their fear of AIDS.

Educational forums are offered by the Center in the community. There will be one at UC-Berkeley April 7 at 7:30 p.m., in the Student Union Building. Oakland will be the site of another forum on AIDS, at the Bella Napoli restaurant-bar, on Telegraph Ave., April 18 at 7:30 p.m. And the Hayward Library will host an educational forum on Tuesday April 16 at 7 p.m.

Some Gay men may want to be tested for the HTLV-3 virus to lay their fears to rest, though they should be aware that there is a great deal of controversy in the community as to the meaning of, and confidentiality of, the test results. Be forewarned that no one is certain what a positive result means, or how the test may affect your civil liberties in the future. It is likely that the

Berkeley Free Clinic will be offering these tests in the near future.

Bill's smartest move might be to have any possible AIDS symptoms immediately checked by a physician experienced with AIDS. For information on possible AIDS symptoms and safe-sex guidelines, call the San Francisco AIDS Foundation Hotline at 863-AIDS.

The Gay Men's Health Collective of the Berkeley Free Clinic is a good place for Bill to turn if he suspects he has AIDS symptoms, but can't afford a private doctor, or would prefer not to come out of the closet with his family doctor. Telling your physician that you are in a high risk group is very important in having possible early AIDS symptoms diagnosed correctly. The clinic is located at 2339 Durant Ave. The Gay men's clinic is held every Sunday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

It is important to point out that the Gay Men's Health Collective doesn't do AIDS screening, but if you have symptoms, they will refer you to the County Hospital AIDS Outpatient Clinic in San Leandro. If you can afford one you will be referred to a private doctor or to your health maintenance organization (Kaiser insures half the people with AIDS in Oakland.)

Fairmont Hospital in San Leandro has an AIDS outpatient clinic on Wednesday afternoons from 4-6 p.m., and they will look at you if you have symptoms you believe are AIDS related. The clinic is up-to-date and rarely is there a wait for service since the hospital is treating only 10 to 20 people on a continuous basis for AIDS, accord-

ing to Mike Smart, the assistant director of ambulatory services.

Another East Bay man, Donald, who lives in Oakland, has definite AIDS-like symptoms. He has suffered with oral thrush for some months, he has lost a little weight and he has swollen lymph nodes. People such as Donald need to know that although they can't afford a private doctor, services are available for him at Fairmont Hospital. A doctor experienced with AIDS symptoms is on duty and the nursing staff have all volunteered to work with these patients. Medical care is offered weekly on Wednesday afternoons.

Alameda County does not have an AIDS ward yet and probably won't for a number of months, according to Smart. "Generally there are only one to two AIDS patients staying at Fairmont at one time," Smart said. "And we'd need to be assured of at least an average of five patients in order to open such a ward. If you had too few patients you'd end up offering less than optimal care."

Smart had an interesting comment to make on his fear of AIDS contagiousness. "I'm not afraid of catching hepatitis or AIDS, but I'm damned scared of catching meningitis."

Part-time home attendant care is available in Alameda County for people with AIDS who would be unable to remain at home on their own without it. The type of attendant care you would receive would depend on your disability but could run the gamut from shopping to cooking to doing the dishes and laundry. These services can be arranged by contacting the Center for Independent Living in Berkeley.

And finally, if you have AIDS, be sure to check out People With AIDS, an organization based in San Francisco but which includes East Bay people. People With AIDS offers group support, chances for socializing and opportunities to get together with similarly interested people to fight the necessary political battles for your rights.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help in the fight against AIDS in the East Bay can contact the East Bay AIDS Resources Organization (EBARO) at 655-6975. You can help.



Ready for People With AIDS. Fairmont Hospital in San Leandro has geared up services for AIDS cases. (Photo: Rink)

South Bay Ignores Its Own AIDS Crisis

Poorly Funded AIDS Project Struggles to Raise Consciousness

by Allen White

In spite of banner headlines announcing the quadrupling of AIDS cases in Santa Clara County, only four people showed for the first in what was to have been a series of forums geared to educate the area to AIDS hazards and the medical status of the health crisis.

The public meeting was presented by the AIDS Project of the Santa Clara County Health Department, Tuesday night, March 28, at the Berger Road Auditorium. Though there are now 57 cases officially listed in the county, AIDS Project chief Burgess acknowledged that it is almost impossible to track the accurate numbers.

"We know many doctors in the area are not reporting AIDS cases," he said. "They are doing this, many times, to provide confidentiality and protect the patient." Adding to the problem is the number of people with AIDS who are simply establishing San Francisco addresses and utilizing the services provided here.

This denial of the disease in Santa Clara County has resulted in two serious effects. One is a lack of funding, the other is a lack of direct community support for people with AIDS.

Santa Clara County now is operating with a state grant for nine months of AIDS services of only \$52,000. For that money there is provision for two staff people and only \$2,000 to print material to educate a county of almost a million and a half persons. In addition, the two staff persons, David Burgess and Millicent Kellogg, are charged by the state to provide education programs to San Mateo County, Santa Cruz County, Monterey County and San Benito County as well as Santa Clara County. There are no other people on any staff in these five counties providing any educational effort relating to anything relating to AIDS.

Kellogg said they used to get free brochures from the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Now, the San Francisco organization is charging for its material and they have no budget to purchase additional literature.

The two have made a gallant

effort to distribute information, as available, in Gay bars in the area. They both said they are not being received enthusiastically because most people don't want to go to a bar and read about a disease.

To date, 35 people of the 57 reported are dead. Burgess said he has no way to know if the figures are accurate. The AIDS Project, he said learns of some deaths through death certificates. Other times they hear through word of mouth. In other cases, the diagnosed person will move their home to a different area.

In discussing the AIDS problem, it becomes clear that the Santa Clara AIDS Project simply does not have the resources to provide accurate statistical information. Millicent Kellogg said she believes there are 8 cases in Monterey County, 1 in San Benito County, 8 in Santa Cruz County and said she thought the number of AIDS cases in San Mateo County was somewhere between 16 and 26.

Kellogg said that the hope of Santa Clara County lies in the large geographical area. Because the Gay community is so dispersed, she reasons that sexual contact is probably less.

Burgess agrees with Kellogg's assessment. He believes that because the Gay community is less organized it may, in fact, be an area where the risk of catching the disease is not as high. "I don't believe that San Jose will become another San Francisco,

(Continued on next page)

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BWMT/NY Becomes MACT/NY

Black and White Men Together, New York, a multi-racial Gay male organization committed to addressing and combatting racism in the Gay community, announced the changing of its name to Men of All Colors Together, New York (MACT/NY).

OAKLAND

Pomp and Pageantry

MEDUSA'S MALICIOUSNESS (*A "Pandora Shudda Washed Her Box" Nose*)

I thank my lucky star (so what if it has fallen, already?) that the Miss \$1.98 Beauty Pageant doesn't occur any more frequently than it does. Not too many hearts or eyes could experience that kind of paraphenomenon much too often. Just consider for a moment, if you will, this select slate of candidates: Flaming Agnus (Manuel's mother!); Crystal Carry-a-ton (Paul); Tits Luv-Its (Bill); Sheena Queen of the Jungle (Brian); Clitoris Mackerel McSnatch (Dan); and Katherine Rubburn (Chris).

If that's not enough to blow out your stacks, ponder the fact that each and every one of these babies not only paraded their embellishments in casual, swim, and formal wear, but they also performed (to the best of their abilities) some sort of talent—I not only use that word loosely, I use it licentiously. All but one participant relied on pantomime, bringing that art form to an unheard-of low. Miss McSnatch banked on live comedy (?) and banjo strumming. Me thinks that all their coaches and tutors had been on a five-year strike.

To say that these "beauties" had no social redeeming value is being utterly too kind. Your worst nightmares couldn't possibly conjure up the likes of these quagmire-esque denizens. And the expression, "Guess who's coming to dinner?" took on a totally new—and aberrant—dimension. More ugliness crammed into that one evening than anyone would care to experience in three lifetimes.

Had it not been for the expertise, talent, and forked-tongue quick wit of Joanna Caron, this event would still be begging for the merciful stake through the heart to end its writhing agony. I had never witnessed Joanna in this role before. It was a fantastically refreshing experience, totally unexpected and entirely devoured by everyone crammed into the Lake Lounge. Her Joan Rivers/Don Rickles type of commentary and retorts made the entire festivity actually enjoyable. A tip of Nez's nose to Mama Chuckles for lassoing that talent for his presentation.

Audience response determined the final lollapalooza and the prescribed process of elimination reduced the chorus line to two finalists. Paul, Miss Carry-a-ton, was vying for a sixth time to win the title. Alas, fate once again chose not to bestow the laurel wreath, if you will, so Mama Chuckles proclaimed him "Miss \$1.98 for Life." It was a dubious honor; perhaps it was to keep him from running anymore. Somewhat of a paradox: no more hassle running again, and a title he's stuck with till death do he part!

Manuel's Mother, Miss Flaming Agnus, somehow eked out the honor of winning and will reign triumphantly (avec and sans teeth?) until the next go round. She very generously donated \$38—her total winnings—to A.C.I.E.'s new Memory Fund.

Since there was no charitable beneficiary this year—Mama Chuckles wanted everyone just to have fun [and drink!]—all entry fees were lumped together as the winner's prize.

Thanks to the efforts of Carlos, Joanna Caron, Mama Chuckles, and Fat Fred (who's

NEZ PAS
thinning!), it was really a fun and enjoyable time.

ATHENAEUM AD JUDGEMENTS (*A "Where's Sonny Tufts?" Nose*)

Gee . . . weren't you impressed to learn the names of Prince's two sequined female consorts, Lisa and Wendy? And the "Grand Ole Oscy" segment allowed us an alarming closeup of Willie Nelson's headband! But enough of that. Two Oscar parties around town produced several winners from their competition.

Lancers challenge produced winners Stewart J. Mason, Harry Ormsby, and Amy Mann; first, second and third, respectively.

Revol's encounter resulted in Phil Garibay correctly choosing all 12 of the offered categories, Jim Hall selected ten, and Richard Gibbons got nine. Jeff received a "booby" prize for guessing the fewest correctly—three!

LAVISHED JACKANAPE! (*A "Tell Us When" Nose*)

Hold on to your stats, it's going to be a Frumpy title! As you read this, the new Spoiled Brat may be opening its doors. Excerpts from their news letter state that a most sophisticated and spectacular light show is being installed above 400 square feet of stainless steel dance floor.

There will be a state-of-the-art sound system, along with professional quality theatrical stage lighting. The air and ventilation system will provide a complete change of air every four minutes! (Perhaps changes of husbands just as frequently!) They have over 100 feet of bar surface, and even a sound engineered telephone room. (Only one person in the booth at a time to view the push-buttons?) Ample parking abounds, and those spots with day-business-hours meters give lots of time for little money.

The Brat's schedule of events for April lists:

- Every Wednesday (every month) \$1 Schnapps for all customers wearing numbered Brat buttons. Dynasty, too, of course!
- Monday or Thursday, April 1 or 4 (depending on receiving the license) April Fools Party. Special all day . . . All well drinks \$5.
- Saturday, April 6, Halloween Party, with prizes for best costumes. (The Brat burned down Halloween morning, 1984.)
- Sunday, April 7, Easter Sunrise Services begin at 6 a.m. \$1 Sunrises. Easter bonnet contest at 11 a.m., with prizes for best bonnet.
- Wednesday, April 10, A special "Thank You" Party for Big Mama's Jim and staff. Complimentary buffet from 5 to 9 p.m.

- Tuesday, April 16, Thanksgiving After Taxes, with complimentary soup line and free sandwiches. Happy hour prices all night.
- Wednesday, April 24, Full Moon (Scorpio) Party. Wear your numbered Brat Button for \$200 cash drawing.
- Friday, April 26, The Spoiled Brat Grand Re-Opening, buffet at 7:30 p.m.

- Saturday, April 27, New Year's Eve, with hats, horns, hoopla, and champagne at midnight. Help them bring in the

"rest of the year."

• Sunday, April 28, Frumpy is admitted to the State Hospital in Napa.

OAKLAND OLIO (*An Inexpensive Spread Nose?*)

Greg "Annette Full-of-Jello" Anderson, the former Miss \$1.98, announced that he raised over \$1,000 in his reign to fight AIDS. A tip of Nez's nose to that.

Manuel was in San Francisco promoting the most current Miss \$1.98 Beauty Pageant, and an ex-ACIE Emperor (formerly a resident of Oakland) somehow managed to pour a drink all over him. Accidents do happen, I guess!

Is your job really safe? Down Hayward way, a cook at Rue de Maine is Gay. His boss knows this and doesn't care, and wants said cook to "take the test to prove you haven't got AIDS." Some customers have commented on a Gay in the kitchen. There was even an anonymous phone call wanting him fired!

Not only did Phil Garibay win Revol's top "Oscar" prize, he also won Delmar Selby Cabbage Patch Doll in a drawing. Spouse Ron and Delmar watch the day-time soaps together! Phil and Delmar watch "Wheel of Fortune" at night while Ron tends bar at Lake Lounge.

A tip of Nez's nose to Joseph John (Jack) Sheehan, Jr., for being one of the winners of the "Distinguished Educators Awards" from the Marcus A. Foster Educational Institute.

Trashy Trish now has all the papers for the '85 Freedom Day Parade, if anyone is interested in doing a float from Oakland this year.

Empress III Toni and Emporer VI Doug present the third

annual "Easter Delight Easter Bonnet Contest" at the Bench & Bar on Sunday, April 7, at 7:30 p.m. There will be trophies and prizes to the top three "tengallons." A raffle will be held at 11 p.m., with lots of prizes, of which the Grand one will be a weekend for two at the RRR Resort, Russian River. Proceeds will go to ACIE and the fight against AIDS.

Little Mother and Ed Paulson present a Benefit Auction at the Gangway in San Francisco, Sunday, April 28 at 4 p.m. All auction proceeds go to benefit AIDS patient care only; such as: rent, utilities, food, prescriptions, etc. The Barrel of Booze Raffle will be held on the last day of the auction series. Remember, one-quarter of all the proceeds returns to the East Bay AIDS Fund.

I reiterate, all tautologies are tautologies! Dare I smile? Love,

S. Bay AIDS

(Continued from previous page)

New York or Los Angeles with massive doubling of AIDS cases." At the same time he said, "I am not sure what will happen here. I just can't predict."

In the summer of 1983, the Bay Area Reporter extensively covered the AIDS crisis in Santa Clara County. At the time the health department was saying that there were only three reported cases and they were all dead. As they made these statements, writers for the paper were interviewing people with AIDS who lived in San Jose and who had slipped through the reporting process.

In the last two years, it would appear little has changed in Santa Clara County regarding the treatment of AIDS as a health crisis. As was the case then, private physicians are referring their patients to San Francisco where they can be assured of better treatment and an understanding support system through such agencies as the Shanti Project.

Against this lack of solid diagnosed cases of AIDS, David Burgess and Millicent Kellogg are seeing an unbelievable amount of people. In the last three months of 1984, the two met with over 300 persons. In 1985 they have now personally met with more than 1,200 persons. They are working hard to get not only the Gay community but the general community involved. They say people are calling their office and many are scared.

Yet, they both concede that there just is no community pressure to respond and directly address the concerns of this disease in their area. The presence of only four people to a highly advertised public meeting would tend to bear out their conclusions.

Marin MCC

Metropolitan Community Church of the Redwoods in Mill Valley recently elected the Reverend Claudia Vierra as their new pastor.

The Rev. Vierra is no stranger to the Bay Area. She pastored MCC East Bay in Oakland from August, 1976 to March, 1980 but left there when her spouse—the Rev. B.J. McDaniels—was elected pastor of the MCC in Boise, Idaho. Vierra served as associate pastor there and two years ago was elected chair of the Clergy Credentials and Concerns Committee, the professional licensing arm of the Metropolitan Community Churches.

FIFES

Opening for the 1985 Season
Friday, April 5 at 4:30PM

Saturday, April 6 at 10:30PM - Cabaret with Linda Bergren
Sunday, April 7 at 2 PM - Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt

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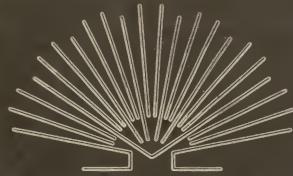
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—Gerald Nachman, SF Chronicle

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—Philip Elwood, SF Examiner

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—John Karl, Bay Area Reporter



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FRIDAY 5

- **Women and AIDS:** Stanford University School of Medicine, Room M114, 12 noon, free. San Francisco's Lesbian/Gay Health Services Coordinator Pat Norman opens Stanford's 1985 series on women and health.
- **Committee to Preserve Our Sexual and Civil Liberties:** meeting, Institute for the Advanced Study of Human Sexuality, 1523 Franklin St., S.F., 7:30 PM. Richard Locke talks about methods of safe sex. For information, call 621-7561.
- **Good Friday Services:** New Life Metropolitan Community Church, 685 14th St., Oakland, 7:30 PM. Phone 839-4241 for details.
- **In the Bar of a Tokyo Hotel:** stage performance, Studio Eremos, 401 Alabama St., at 17th St., S.F., 8 PM, \$7. Tennessee Williams' play is directed by Diana Duffer. Information at 893-3289.
- **Randy David:** cabaret, Buckley's Bistro, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9 PM, \$5.
- **I Carry:** comedy, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$3. Billie Bowman's comedy performance piece incorporates music, dance and video by Marie Delux.
- **Double Exposure:** dance, New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$7. A concert of dance and natural physicality performed by Nancy Bryan and Dancers, with Vicki Angel.
- **Something Else to Do:** The Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 6-10 PM. An alternative place to relax, have fun and meet people every Friday and Saturday.
- **Livin' on Salvation Street:** stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$7. Terry Cammon Garner's portrait of three Southern women continues its smash run.
- **Women's Drop-in Space:** conversation and caring, 1615 Polk St., upstairs, S.F., 7-9 PM, every Friday.
- **Acupuncture Free Clinic:** for persons with AIDS and their Gay families, The Personage, 555A Castro St., S.F., by appointment. Call Mark Denzin, C.A., or Peter Betcher at 567-2315 for information.
- **Femprov:** comedy, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 6 to 8 PM, free.

SATURDAY 6

- **AIDS Bike-a-thon:** Different Spokes and the S.F. AIDS Foundation sponsor a 100 mile ride to Russian River via Highway 1 to raise funds for AIDS services. For information, call 282-3032.
- **East Bay FrontRunners:** Lafayette Reservoir run, 3 mile loop, mostly flat, meet at 9:30 AM. Take Hwy. 24 to Mt. Diablo Blvd. exit; bear left on Mt. Diablo to Park entrance road (first right); park in dirt lot on left.
- **Easter Social:** Fraternal Order of Gays, 2038 22nd Ave., S.F., 7:30 PM. Holiday treats, light buffet, and Game Championship Prize. Call 753-6786 for information.
- **High Hopes:** stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$9 and \$10. Julianne Gavin's play about a Lesbian couple deciding to have a child stretches family ties in a light-hearted romp.
- **Linda Bergren:** cabaret, Fife's on the Russian River, 10:30 PM, call (707) 869-0656 for reservations.



Easter festivities abound. Check Sunday for listings
(Photo: Rink)



Join Conjunto Cespedes Easter

- **The White Party:** dancing, Trocadero Transfer, 520 4th St., S.F., 10 PM until Dawn, \$15. Troc salutes the famous Trocadero Ballroom and the Golden years of Hollywood night life in the 1930's.
- **Double Exposure:** dance (see Friday for details).
- **In the Bar of a Tokyo Hotel:** stage performance (see Friday for details).
- **Gay Comedy Night:** Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 10 PM, \$5. Tonight starring Linda Moakes, Monica Palacios and Danny Williams.
- **Duck's Breath Mystery Theatre:** stage performance, Julia Morgan Theatre, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley, 7 and 9:30 PM, \$8.50. If you like the Marx Brothers, then Duck's Breath will provide as much laughter as being tickled with a feather. Call 548-7234 for reservations.
- **Livin' on Salvation Street:** stage performance (see Friday for details).
- **Different Spokes:** decide and ride, meet in Golden Gate Park at 1 PM (Fell & Stanyan Sts.) and decide destination.
- **Writing Workshop:** for women 60 and older, Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., S.F., 12 noon. Sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders, call 626-7000 for more information.

SUNDAY 7

- **San Francisco Hiking Club:** day hike, Skyline Trail in the East Bay hills, meet at 9:45 AM at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 18th St. and Collingwood, S.F. This will be a vigorous, exploration hike.
- **Different Spokes:** decide and ride bicycling, meet at 10 AM in Golden Gate Park (Fell & Stanyan Sts.).
- **Different Spokes - South Bay:** meet at Stanford Shopping Center, El Camino entrance, at 10 AM and decide destination.
- **G Forty Plus:** meeting, First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin at Geary, S.F., 2 PM. *Sentinel USA* editor Tom Murray looks at the Gay press, past, present and future. Also collecting canned food for the S.F. AIDS Foundation.
- **Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt:** Fife's on the Russian River, 2 PM, for information, call (707) 869-0656.
- **Dreams and the Spaces Between:** script reading, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 3 PM, \$3. A taut drama of a fag basher getting caught by his victims.
- **Conjunto Cespedes:** dancing, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 4 PM. Dance on El Rio's patio to this Afro-Cuban band.
- **Easter Bonnet and Basket Contest:** Alamo Square Saloon, 600 Fillmore St., S.F., 7 PM. Grand Duke Michael hosts.
- **High Hopes:** stage performance (see Saturday for details).

WEEK



enes Easter Sunday at El Rio

- In the Bar of a Tokyo Hotel: stage performance (see Friday for details).
- Atlanta: opera, Theatre on the Square, 450 Post St., S.F., 7:30 PM, \$12 and \$15. Pocket Opera presents Handel's opera of springtime and inexhaustible love. Tickets at 433-9500.
- Le Jazz Hot: cabaret, The Black Rose, 335 Jones St., S.F., 9 & 11 PM, \$1. Join MC's Consuelo del Rio and Tommi Rose every Sunday for a classy show featuring S.F.'s finest female impersonators.
- Livin' on Salvation Street: stage performance (see Friday for details).
- All Join Hands: square dancing, 2140 Market, S.F., 5 to 7 PM. Dance with the Bay City Ramblers. Call 474-1917 for more information.
- Drop-in VD Clinic: sponsored by the Gay Men's Health Collective, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 7 to 9 PM. Free and confidential. Testing and treatment for gonorrhea, syphilis, NGU, scabies, lice, etc., also counseling and referrals. Call 644-0425 for more information.

MONDAY 8

- Gay Skate Night: Cal Skate, 6100 Commerce Blvd., Rohnert Park, 7-9 PM, \$3 per person, \$5 per couple. The Gay and Lesbian Student Union of Santa Rosa Junior College hosts an evening of fun. From Hwy. 101, take Rohnert Park Expressway to Commerce Blvd. and turn left.
- Clarence Pendleton, Jr.: lecture, Booth Auditorium, Bolt Hall, University of California, Berkeley, 4 PM, free. The controversial head of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission speaks on affirmative action.
- Artists Involved with Death and Survival: stage performance, Studio Eremos, 401 Alabama St., at 17th St., S.F., 8 PM, \$7. Theatre Rhinoceros' highly acclaimed AIDS Show continues at a new time and place. Tickets at 861-5079.
- Gay Comedy Open Mike: comedy, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$3. Performer sign-up, 7:30 PM.

TUESDAY 9

- Radical Women: meeting, 523-A Valencia St., S.F., 7:30 PM, dinner at 6:45 PM (donation requested). Call 864-1278 for information.
- Artists Involved with Death and Survival: stage performance (see Monday for details).
- Bobbie Norris with Larry Dunlap: cabaret, Sutter's Mill, 77 Battery St., S.F., 6-8 PM, call 788-8379 for reservations. One of the foremost female jazz vocalists in the Bay Area.
- Gay Freedom Day Marching Band: practice, every Tuesday, Gresham Hall, Grace Cathedral, S.F., 7:15 PM.

PM. Interested? Call the Bandfone, 621-5619.

- Bingo: Pride Center, 890 Hayes St., S.F., \$6, 7:15 PM. Cash prizes.
- Playwriting Workshop: winter session, 7:30 PM. Conducted by George Birmisa. Call 431-6254 for more information.
- Beginning Square Dancing: dance, 2140 Market, S.F., 8:15 PM. Learn with the Bay City Ramblers. Call 474-1917 for more information.
- Yoga and Meditation Class: for people with AIDS and their lovers, 10 AM to noon. Call 921-4471 for more information.
- International Folk Dancing: dance class, Nova Academy, 347 Dolores St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, \$2. No pre-registration necessary. Call 552-8413 for more information.

WEDNESDAY 10

- Lesbians Considering Parenting: support group, Lyon-Martin Clinic, 2480 Mission St., S.F., 7-9 PM, \$60-80 sliding scale. Cheryl Jones facilitates a six week group for Lesbians considering children. Call 641-0220 for further information.
- Multicultural Lesbian Conference: planning meeting, New College School of Law, 50 Fell St., S.F., 7:30 PM. Call 285-7510 for details.
- David Bissonette: poetry reading, Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St., S.F., 7:30 PM, donation requested.
- Bobbie Norris with Larry Dunlap: cabaret (see Tuesday for details).
- High Hopes: stage performance, \$8 and \$9 (see Saturday for details).
- Jack Mahan and David Bury: cabaret, Buckley's Bistro, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9 PM.
- San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Chorus: rehearsals, Kassman Piano, 425 Hayes St., S.F., 7:30 PM. For information call 566-6496.

THURSDAY 11

- Gay Italian Americans (GIA): lasagne dinner, parish hall, Most Holy Redeemer Church, 18th and Diamond Sts., S.F., 7 PM, \$5 members, \$7 nonmembers.
- Jae Ross: cabaret, Buckley's Bistro, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9 PM.
- High Hopes: stage performance \$8 and \$9 (see Saturday for details).
- Bobbie Norris with Larry Dunlap: cabaret (see Tuesday for details).
- Beginning Square Dancing: Foggy City Dancers, Rawhide, 280 7th St., S.F., 9 PM.
- Writing Workshop: for men 60 and older, Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., S.F., 7 PM. Sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders. Call 431-6254 for details.
- All-Male Strip Show: Renegade, 1548 Polk St., S.F., 10 PM, no cover.
- Yoga and Meditation Class: for people with AIDS and their lovers, 7 to 9 PM. Call 921-4471 for more information.
- Couples Group II: ongoing drop-in support group for persons with AIDS and their lovers, Pride Center, 890 Hayes St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM. Call 821-8830 or 558-9644 for more information.



Rob Epstein (l.) and Deborah Hoffman (not pictured), director and editor of the Academy Award-winning film *The Times of Harvey Milk*, will show clips and spill the beans on the making of the movie April 10 at the Roxie.

The Bay Area Reporter welcomes organizations, businesses, and individuals to submit items for its weekly calendar. Placement in the calendar is free and the sole responsibility of the editors. Deadline: 5 PM on Thursdays. This Week compiled by Ray O'Loughlin.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

STAGE

Anatomy of a Flop

Mark Hamill's \$2 Million Role Confusion

by Steve Warren

Another major Gay character almost made it to the Broadway stage this year. Instead, \$2 million went down the tubes, and historians will have to figure out whether New York's premier transvestite of the 19th century caught his fatal case of Syphilis from a man or a woman.

The show was **Harrigan 'n Hart**, the character the Tony Hart of the title as played by Mark Hamill. We spoke to the actor prior to the third preview of 24 which preceded the musical's five official performances. At that time there was still some question of how Tony Hart would be played by Mark Hamill.

"I'm willing to play the specifics if they'd tell me," the Oakland-born Hamill confided over brunch at Sardi's. "There's a lot of homoerotic imagery, but it's in and out."

My tipoff to the Gay content of **Harrigan 'n Hart** came from a *Variety* review of last summer's Connecticut tryout which opened the Goodspeed-at-Chester Norma Terris Theater. The reviewer, according to one of his colleagues, is "on the Gay side." Whether he was reading into it or the book was clearer then, he wrote, "Hart, it seems, was homosexual and a lost soul."

Working from that premise I discussed the show with insiders before seeing it, and no one disputed the idea that Hart was Gay. A press agent was sympathetic when I said I wanted to cover the musical for the *Bay Area Reporter* "because of its Gay theme."

Compare that to the **Torch Song Trilogy** publicist who refused me passes, saying, "We're not doing press now," after my Harvey Fierstein interview had appeared in a dozen local and national publications. That confirmed stories I'd heard that the New York company of **Torch Song** has turned its back on the community that discovered it. A New York colleague described the publicist in question: "She's Gay herself . . . and nasty." I hope she has to call me someday when she is "doing press" on something.

Nedda Harrigan Logan, daughter of the title's Edward Harrigan, cautioned me about the state the show was in: "We have great plans for it. We had a meeting at 11 o'clock this morning to discuss them . . . (In Connecticut) it was like a little jewel box. Then we came to the Longacre—I looked at it and thought it was the Hippodrome!"

As for Hart, "No one in my family knew him. He died at 34 (actually 30) . . . They were together 14 years and then my father went on alone." The credits say the show is partially "based on material compiled by" Mrs. Logan, which explains why her father emerges as a saint while what little drama there is is supplied by vague inuendoes about his partner.

It was Hamill who first suggested to me that Hart's sexuality is less than cut-and-dried. "He has problems," the actor said of Tony Hart. "I don't think he's a complete person without Ned Harrigan, although he's not physically in love with Ned Harrigan."

"The history books don't tell us what it was like to be Gay in those days . . . It's even possible that Hart realized he was homosexual or bisexual and it was devastating for him." He went on to describe the widespread ignorance of the subject in the late 19th century. Someone who'd been listening to us expressed disbelief that things could ever have been that way until I told him, "I went through the same thing 20 years ago."

Although the show, perhaps toned down for "family" audiences, was vague about the nature of Hart's carousing, Hamill speculated, "He could have gone to opium dens with chippies and (had sex with) anyone."

One thing known about Tony Hart is that he frequently worked in drag, reportedly making a quite convincing woman. Hamill played his drag numbers young and cute, but not very feminine, even in a scene where

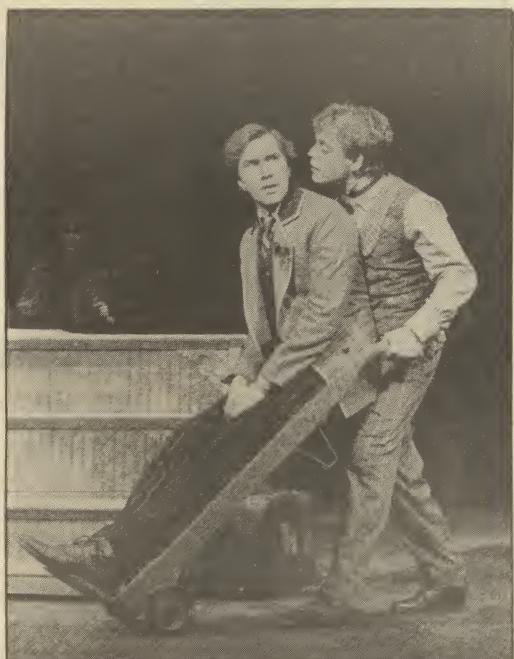
he gets his way in court by snuggling up to the dirty old judge. "It's still a shock to pass in front of a full-length mirror," he admitted.

George Hearn, who plays Albin in *La Cage aux Folles*, told about a gift Hamill had sent him—a stuffed green dragon with a note: "Love you with your drag-on."

Most people with famous parents will tell you it's a two-edged sword, making it easier to get work but harder to be recognized for their own abilities. It's a two-edged *laser* sword for Mark "Don't call me Luke Skywalker!" Hamill, because he's best known as the son of Darth Vader in the *Star Wars* trilogy.

"I have it in my contract that they can't mention *Star Wars*," he said, laughing about television promotional appearances he made in conjunction with a previous stage role: "They'd say, 'Here's Mark Hamill of *Amadeus*' and show the laser battle with Darth Vader!"

Because of the trouble he's had fighting this strong identification, such other films as *The Big Red One* and *Cor-*



Mark Hamill (r.) and Harry Groener in the deceased musical, *Harrigan and Hart*

before we started rehearsals. The others learned in 45 minutes what it took me six weeks to learn."

After announcing "It is not at this point a frozen show," Hamill went off for a quick rehearsal of the latest changes while I finished brunch before heading for the theater.

Whatever was altered in the next three weeks, for better or worse, the show opened on a Thursday and closed the next Sunday. Here's a rundown on *Harrigan 'n Hart* as I saw it

and the daughter of his musical director and songwriting partner, David Braham.

Harrigan and Hart are so successful they buy a theater, staffing it with Ned's relatives. Putting up a brave front as "one poor lonely Hart" among all those Harrigans, Tomy says, "If I wanted Harts around I'd get married and supply 'em by the dozens. I like being one of a kind."

Ned, who has always been the more demonstrative with his affection, perhaps because he's not hiding anything, consoles Tony with a hand on the shoulder and the song, "That's My Partner": "That's my partner, my pal, my chum . . . my brother, my other self I walk my daily mile with . . . He'll be by my side for lifetimes to come—my partner, my pal, my chum."

Somewhere along in here Harrigan invents the book musical, devising plots to connect the usual songs and sketches. Hart becomes more and more insecure: "About Ned and me, what do people think? . . . Because he writes the plays, do they think it's all him?"

In the midst of his nightly partying, Hart somehow connects with a tough-minded Englishwoman, Gerta Granville, who tells him, "The way you go on about your beloved Ned, your drunkenness, your brutality to women—you're not much of a man, are you? . . . What you need is a real woman." This last statement is expanded in an equally offensive song, "What You Need Is a Woman," which says in part, ". . . The peace of mind he longs for, the goal he's dreaming of, can be his if he has a woman, a woman to love."

The show seems to have taken a homophobic turn, but we soon learn Gerta is an equal opportunity ballbuster, treating every individual and group just as badly. She proves to be a Yoko Ono to the H & H team, interfering until she alienates everyone,

that day.

★ ★ ★

It's the old story—Boy gets partner, boy loves partner, boy loses partner. The "boy" in this case, Ned Harrigan, is 10 years older than Tony Hart, who is 16 in 1871 when the story opens.

After an unsuccessful audition for the short-lived musical version of *The Three Musketeers* he met Michael Stewart, who had written the book for *Harrigan 'n Hart*. "The script read like a straight play," Hamill recalled. "I thought I should go out for it even though I wasn't sure I could handle it vocally. I know I don't sing like Howard Stark. I'd done *Snoopy* and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and *Finch in How to Succeed . . .*"

Despite his reservations going into the audition, he came out feeling the part was his. It was one of those times that felt so right, he said, "You think, 'They're crazy if they don't hire me—I'm perfect.' Then when you get it you say, 'What have I gotten myself into?' Everyone else in the cast has done hundreds of musicals . . . They sent me to dancing class eight weeks

ago."

At this point in the first act the book is zooming along like *George M.*, also written by Michael Stewart, played on fast forward, interrupted by songs and sketches that suggest *Sugar Babies*. Ned Harrigan marries Annie Braham, his leading lady



Edward Harrigan (l.) and Tony Hart



EVEN IN BABYLON

What's That Got to Do with Me?

JOHN F. KARR

I've been disconcerted ever since I wrote a lukewarm review of the Julian Theatre's recent production of *Homeland*. I remind myself that the seriousness of a subject, in this case apartheid, cannot condone weak dramaturgy, but then feel personally responsible when I read the headlines concerning South Africa.

As well I should. "One planet, one people," advises the Baha'i faith, and we're all responsible. I'm also charged, however, with reviewing plays, and playwright Saléalo/Maredi's textbook lecturing could not be the sympathetic call to action it wanted to be and should have been. And while I feel guilty for speaking ill of an obviously heartfelt work, the situation worsens. Armed police in Johannesburg shoot down marchers who brandish only sticks and stones. (Did the police chant, "Sticks and stones may break my bones but guns will blast you away"?!) South African leaders are arrested and jailed, silenced, on scant charges, lives are lost, while in Amerika, 60 Minutes pronounces everthing in South Africa just fine. Just fine if you're a White man, run the government, and own the weapons.

So, what can I do about apartheid? Things in my own country need changing. Isn't Africa somebody else's problem?

If so, whose?

These thoughts were the backdrop by which I viewed three plays last week, each in a different manner concerning our relations with other people and how the world and individuals govern those relations—Our Town, Misalliance, and Traps.

I was most curious about Traps, chiefly because it was the second production of Reflex Action Theatre (R.A.T.), the new-

comer group whose first show, *Two Acts for a Deaf Yak*, had been so creatively directed and deftly performed. Also, Traps was an unknown quantity, a play written by the author of *Cloud Nine*, Caryl Churchill, before that famous success.

At first it was like meeting the principal. Rather forboding. Gone the zany lightheadedness of *Deaf Yak*, replaced by the suffocating working class environs of London. Traps is a dark and oppressive play—at least the first act—during which I began to wonder why I was enduring this sullen atmosphere and these deadened lives. The visionary, surreal directing by Marcus Stern and the excellent performances almost weren't enough to rescue me from the stark depiction of the traps that snared these characters. I struggled for breath, wanted to escape this tedious way. The traps closed—a bad marriage, a sordid affair, unemployment, paranoia, the cops, a battered wife, a pregnancy, poverty. Where was this leading? Was it leading at all?

As *Cloud Nine* had to show us the convolutions of our anti-

'Things in my own country need changing. Isn't Africa somebody else's problem?'

quated sexual values before the playwright could offer her prescription for cure in that play's moving final monologue, so the first act of *Traps* demonstrates, in a less brilliant fashion than *Cloud Nine*, what its second act will offer a cure for. And this latter act is a loving, rewarding payoff to the toils that proceed. In a lengthy scene of simple and endearing sexuality, the characters disrobe and take turns bathing in a communal tub.

vulnerable, is to be cherished. A fine artistic achievement, it's a memorable experience for the audience.

Scenes of physical brutality and sexual intimacy are handled by the young cast with a maturity rarely seen, and the production is a work of art itself. The traps of the title are symbolically represented by traps in the writing, for the past, present, and future, both real and imagined, are played simultane-

ously. This confusing condition is mirrored by a partially completed jigsaw puzzle on a downstage table. Its pieces are duplicated in giant size by the puzzle-shaped rugs on the floor. The refuse of life, clogging the characters' lives, clings in applied-art manner to furniture. Teacups, liquor bottles, and a ballet slipper leer from an armchair. The walls leer too, painted with giant distorted faces, their unblinking, unfurling gazes choking the characters' lives. The entire set, by Leigh Barbier, could be moved to an art gallery.

The production is quite a change for R.A.T., and I'm amazed at their imagination and daring, the scope of their skills. Director Stern and company are comparable to a similar group, Chicago's recently acclaimed *Steppenwolf Theatre*. *Reflex Action Theatre* is a young, vital ensemble company of much talent. While *Traps* is initially a difficult venture, San Fran-

ciscans should acquaint themselves with the surprising R.A.T., and soon. *Traps* closes Saturday, April 6.

★ ★ ★

Fifty million Frenchman can't be right, said George Bernard Shaw, arguing along with Ibsen that majority rule *must* be wrong. And although he hated charm, he poured it on in *Misalliance*, a jackanape jest that ridicules every variety of coupling and its consequences, plus most other foibles of mankind. His wit shines extra bright here, perhaps because he didn't have a specific subject in mind. No one has been able to pinpoint exactly what this play is about, but here's Shaw arguing like an erudite Neil Simon for the termination of cant and humbug, for escape from (or permission for) sexual slavery, for the equality of men and women. He's at his best lampooning and harpooning the ways of all flesh.

(Continued on page 35)



'Ego, inertia, paranoia and fear: How much power we give to these traps' says director Marcus Stern concerning the play *Traps*, given an unusually creative production by the company at *Reflex Action Theatre*.

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GEORGE HEYMONT

My good friend Mistress Carole is one of Northern California's better known Lesbians—a cruel, but thoroughly professional dominatrix whose disciplinary skills (especially when coupled with a severe talent for humiliation) serve her extremely well in her work. When sufficiently provoked, Carole has been known to cut an unauthorized erection down to size in no time at all merely by administering a few painfully accurate volleys with her customized ping pong paddle. An aggressively assertive female dominant whose daily cravings are tended to by those with a distinct need to be ruled, you can rest assured Carole rarely lacks for attention. After several years of being waited on by a pack of willing submissives she knows how, without inflicting too much pain, to get what she wants out of life.

As most of us know, the opera world is littered with dominant women, ranging from egotistical divas to bel canto queens—these two species have often been known to engage in some heavy cross-dressing. While the pain and degradation such ladies inflict on their inferiors may produce prettier sounds than the squeals and screams Mistress Carole gets from her clients, these women all share one common trait. They have a good, solid knowledge of who they are, and the poor fool who fails to show them the proper kind of respect will soon learn exactly where things stand.



'Get down on your knees now, you worm!' Madame Altina (Carol Gutknecht) asserts herself in Pasatieri's *La Divina*.

opera, *La Divina*, recently mounted at the Peabody Conservatory of Music as the curtain raiser for the Baltimore Opera's triple bill of American portraits, *La Divina* evokes images of Renata Scotti and a host of other prima donnas who know their careers are drawing to a close but can't quite bring themselves to make a graceful exit. As performed by soprano Carol Gutknecht, Madame Altina

actly how to keep her followers in line. Milking sympathy from everyone in sight, Altina gives a credible, perhaps even inspiring farewell performance offstage. But, to everyone's surprise, she announced that since the audience loves her so much, she will give another concert next week. Basking in the admiration of the conductor and her invisible audience, Madame reigns triumphant. Again.

Pasatieri's one-act romp about an aging opera singer and her sycophants demonstrates a sound knowledge of tonal writing as well as backstage politics. The composer's score is pleasant, if not necessarily memorable. Under Gerald Freedman's able direction, Carol Gutknecht wasted no time in chewing the scenery as the role of *La Divina* so rightly demands. From her brilliant entrance to her endless curtain calls, she knew exactly what she was doing. Martha Jane Howe does plenty of sympathy as Madame's abused maid, Cecily.

All things considered, I enjoyed *La Divina* immensely. Why? Because it so effectively captures one of those hair-raising moments when art mirrors life with the eerie prescience of *The Twilight Zone*. My only regret is that audiences attending *La Divina* are not given scratch and sniff cards to be used during the show.

Smiles for Sara

The Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Artists in the Entertainment Industry has called the NBC-TV series *Sara*, "The breakthrough show for the Gay community" for including what the organization refers to as a "happens to be Gay" character.

Rick Henderson, co-chair of the AGLA Media Watch Committee, lauded the program based on the group's analysis of the character Dennis, a Gay lawyer practicing with three other non-Gay attorneys in a San Francisco legal office. "Based on what we've seen so far, Dennis is quite content with himself. He's a positive, likeable human being who just happens to be Gay. The jokes arise from the situations; the audience laughs with him, not at him."

Dennis, who is portrayed by Bronson Pinchot, the young actor who came to notoriety in the

Eddie Murphy film *Beverly Hills Cop*, "obviously has respect for the character and it shows. He appears to enjoy the role and so do we," Henderson said. "We only hope that NBC develops the character and gives the show a chance to succeed."

Sara airs Wednesday nights on NBC-TV. AGLA suggests viewers make their opinions known by writing to Brandon Tartikoff, President, NBC Entertainment, NBC-TV, 3000 West Alameda Boulevard, Burbank, CA 91523.

AGLA, now in its sixth year, was formed to encourage the responsible portrayal of Gays and Lesbians in the entertainment media. Correspondence can be addressed to: P.O. Box 69A18, West Hollywood, CA 90069, or by phone by dialing (213) 851-4997.

Curse or Promise?

by Bernard Spunberg

Mixed emotions. Spell #7, a theater piece by Ntozake Shange, author of *For Colored Girls . . .*, is currently being produced by the Lorraine Hansberry Theater. Billied as a "magic trance manual for technologically stressed Third World people," Spell #7 makes me feel rebellious. The show begins with a minstrel-style number proclaiming that "you're going to be Black all your life and you're going to love it." Sounds like an up message

to me. The play then goes on to dramatize reasons why being Black is a terrible burden.

Apparently, Black people's problems are the fault of two partially overlapping groups: White people and men. White people may be either open or hypocritical about their bigotry. Men are just plain stupid. Black women, on the other hand, are wonderful. We hear the story of one woman so desperate for validation of her existence that she has a baby. When the baby



Joie de vivre in Spell #7

Universal Stuff

by Bernard Spunberg

Torch Song Trilogy screams Yes to Life. Currently making a return visit to Theater on the Square, Harvey Fierstein's play dramatizes one man's willingness to defy fashion and convention in order to get what he wants most. Though that one man never pretends to be anyone but himself, he is nonetheless the personification of everyone who ever put his ego on the line, lived according to his personal convictions, and shared his fundamental emotions freely. Despite the risks.

Torch Song is even better the second time than the first. The story of a New York drag queen's variously successful attempts to build relationships with three different men as well as improve his relationship with his mother, the play originally seemed like a show for one actor assisted by six cardboard cutouts. No longer.

Louisa Flaningam brings a fragility, a sense of helpless need mixed with a drop of wisdom that makes the role of a woman in love with a bisexual man believable and sympathetic. Perhaps more than any other, her characterization makes *Torch Song* a play rather than just an extended monologue.

P.J. Benjamin's portrayal of Arnold Beckoff, the hero of the play, is abundantly, lovably human. Painted with a broad brush dipped in primary colors, the characterization begins a little crudely. As Benjamin's portrayal unfolds and the jokes snap into place, the crudity becomes apparent as a conscious choice.

This queen may not care much for back-room sex, but he's no blushing flower, either.

The bisexual boyfriend's appeal resides in his indecisiveness. "Will he or won't he?" we want to wonder. Malcolm Stewart is attractive enough, but he doesn't turn on enough charm at the right moment to make us care. By contrast with Benjamin's vivid characterization, however, Stewart's relative blandness is believable.

Thelma Lee's portrayal of Arnold's mother is less of a cartoon and more of a person than we've seen before. Her argument with Arnold about their respective claims to widowhood cuts to the heart of a parent's relationship with a Gay child.

Bruce Toms' characterization of Arnold's lover fails to fill one of the play's gaps: How does their relationship grow strong enough to warrant adopting a child? Still, Toms' performance

illustrates a pretty boy's use of teasing and provocation to manipulate relationships to his advantage. Karl Wiedergott's portrayal of Arnold's adopted son has the right whippersnapping tone.

Another passage of the play complains that nobody loves a Black woman like they love Farrah Fawcett-Majors. What? Try substituting "Tina Turner" for "Black woman" and see if that sentence makes sense. And why would a self-respecting woman of any color want to be loved like Farrah? Though she's recently shown a flair for real acting, isn't Farrah famous primarily as a mindless sex kitten? I thought we were fighting against the sexual objectification of women.

As for men, their relationships

shows signs of growing out of total dependence on his mother, she slits his wrists while he's asleep and sucks out his blood. I'm sorry the woman felt so bad about herself, but what about the baby?

with women are dominated by three opening lines: Oh, baby, you're so pretty; You have beautiful legs; and I've never met anyone like you before. Admittedly feeble. But how about some sympathy for sexual and emotional attractions so intense they send basic verbal skills out the window? Let's not forget about the lonely but courageous soul willing to put his ego on the line in exchange for a little warmth. Yes, some men are creeps. Good relationships, however, have to begin somewhere, and even an idiotic opening line is better than none at all.

As directed by Kedryl E. McCord, the production is all right, though it's sometimes hard to tell whether a character is speaking personally or from some other point of view. Amara Tabor's fiery dancing conveys

ing conveys character as well as physical beauty. Darold Ross brings personal magnetism and appeal to his characterization of a bartender-poet.

After the performance, director McCord told me that the joy of Spell #7 resides in its very existence, that though these characters have each experienced brutality, they have nevertheless survived. McCord also explained that the play was written in 1979 and that some things have changed since then. I'm glad. Given the oppression depicted in Spell #7, the statement "You're going to be Black all your life and you're going to love it" sounds more like a curse than a joyful promise.

Spell #7
Lorraine Hansberry Theater
Through May 5; 474-8842

Bruce Toms and P.J. Benjamin in *Torch Song Trilogy*

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The Big One

Gone With The Wind
MGM/UA Home Video, \$89.95
by Michael Lasky

Watching the most acclaimed, most popular film of all time on TV is like having a reunion with an old close friend. We think we know everything about them, but on each new visit we find some new aspect to their personality we weren't aware of before. In Hollywood, the 1939 film is known as GWTW or simply, "the big one."

With the release of the sprawling Civil War epic on videotape,

the old friend has moved into my house permanently. In the past, I had been so enthralled by the story, the characters, and the production of the film, I never took notice that GWTW has its share of camp.

Vivian Leigh's Scarlett O'Hara seen in this new light is simply a scheming bitch. Olivia DeHavilland is really too simple to be real. Her goodness, certainly by today's sensibilities, makes her a laughable character but all the more enjoyable. Clark Gable's Rhett Butler is about as macho and virile as you can get, and sets the standard by which we can measure unextinguishable sexual fire. Leslie Howard's Ashley Wilkes is

GONE WITH THE WIND



one of the growing giants in the business, Nostalgia's library has been rereleased in cleaned up, shiny new prints.

Citizen Kane, King Kong, John Wayne westerns, Laurel and Hardy features, Cary Grant features like Gunga Din and Mr. Lucky, and four of the best of Astaire and Rogers are now available at prices ranging from less than \$20 to \$40.

Reviewing the four Astaire-Rogers musicals, it is easy to see why they remain among the best musicals Hollywood ever produced. Top Hat and Follow the Fleet, with their fabulous Irving Berlin scores, Shall We Dance, with its lilting Gershwin music,

and Flying Down to Rio, with one of the last scores from Vincent Youmans, capture the spirit of the Art Deco '30s. The elegance of the dancing and the music would be enough to preserve these films. God knows the stories and scripts were always wanting, if not winning.

Today, we can see that these pictures have a magic fantasy—an only-in-the-movies quality—that lets us escape to a camp-infested neoreality. Sidelining almost each one of the films are Eric Blore and Edward Everett Horton with their latent and even blatant queeniness, the Stepin' Fetchits of '30s Gay sensibility. Always used as comic foils with lips pursed and dialogue minced, they nevertheless add to the archness and frivolity of the films.

An interesting side note: the repackaging of Astaire and Rogers' first film pairing, Flying Down to Rio, has the pair as the stars and Delores Del Rio and Gene Raymond as the co-stars. In actuality, it was just the reverse. It was the short-but-sweet screen chemistry of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers in this film in their bit parts that propelled them to fame and the 11 films they were to then make. Watching them is watching screen magic. Each of their films lists for under \$30, less than most theater tickets today, and offering more than most theater or musical film has ever supplied. ■



essence of wimp. Hattie McDaniel's Mammy, although directed in '30s-mandated Stepin' Fetchit style, still shines as the one character with the truest soul. And Butterly McQueen, with her impossibly high pitched banter, remains as the best laugh getter and easiest character to lampoon.

MGM found a mint three-strip Technicolor print to copy, which glows on the TV screen with a sharpness and color never seen before—even in theaters. The sound has been reprocessed into a modern-day stereo that makes the old movie a new experience.

It helps that Margaret Mitchell's novel is the grand dame of spectacular melodrama, with people we care about and events that challenge our imagination. But is it Producer David O. Selznick's demand for nitpicking detail and authenticity, and Victor Fleming's dashing direction of Sidney Howard's flesh and blood script that have made GWTW one of the best movies of all time.

No matter what interpretation we individually make of it, be it campy or hightoned drama, this is a picture that holds up with multiple viewings. No matter how many times I've seen it, every time I reread it I'm immediately caught up in its spell.

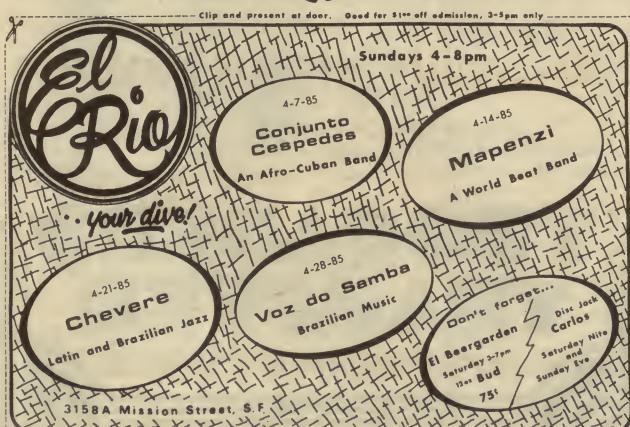
MGM has packaged the video in a special library slipcase with two Maxell tapes and a program booklet. Also included on the tapes are the original overture and intermission music, which for viewing are a waste of time and tape but which add to the archival value of what will always be The Big One.

SMALLER CLASSICS

Nostalgia Merchant was a small independent video company which released old Hollywood films whose copyrights entered the public domain, as well as older movies for which the rights were practically given away. Recently purchased by Media Home Entertainment,



Ginger and Fred



Audience Call

Jae Ross will record a live album in September. During the next few months, Bob Bauer and he will try some new arrangements at forthcoming concerts to prepare for the recording.

Since the quality of audience participation is essential to the success of the premier recording, audience try-outs will be held at these events.

The first set of audience auditions at Valencia Rose was a resounding success. Those who participated in the initial try-

outs passed with flying colors. A call back/rehearsal at Buckley's at 131 Gough Street, (Between Page and Oak Streets) will be held on either of the following evenings: Thursday, April 4 or Thursday, April 11.

Auditions are still open for those unable to attend the first set. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of Ross' debut album.

Rehearsal begins promptly at 9 p.m. Phone 552-8177 for reservations. Buckley's tends to fill up quickly. ■

King David*And God Said "Kill!"*

Within the first few minutes of *King David*, even before the main credits have appeared, there is a graphic beheading, done in the name of God. Thousands of heads are to come off during the next two hours so settle back, folks. After about a dozen years, it's Biblical movie time once again.

Directed by Australia's Bruce Beresford [Breaker Morant, Tender Mercies], *King David* is not your expected Biblical film. It has higher aspirations than to inspire through spectacle.

'After about a dozen years, it's Biblical movie time once again.'

With a screenplay by James Costigan, this is a film that tries to be literate. What we get, though, is merely a talky film where the only action is a beheading, a stake in the heart, a couple of throat slittings, and some other bits of gory violence.

They bandy the name of God and the Lord around gratuitously whenever killing is imminent or some other unGodly act is due. For the first time we have a film based on tales from the Bible that point out that genocide has always been around and rationalized as religiously responsible. At one point the Lord of the Philistines explains to David that his people cherish their madmen. "Understand that and you understand all religion," he

sums up the theme of the entire picture pithily.

It would be hard to knock *King David* for its depiction of the weak, ego-ingratiating leaders who use the so-called word of God to freely draw blood like syrup from a maple tree. *King David* is honest in showing the barbaric customs of the Holy Land.

What can be faulted is its total lack of majesty, power of persuasion, and its inability to move with any drama. The reason Hollywood stopped making Bible pictures was they had become dull and preachy. Despite its new direction, *King David* still follows this lackluster tradition.

'After about a dozen years, it's Biblical movie time once again.'

Richard Gere, with his lapsing New York accent, seems incredibly miscast as David, especially in a cast filled mainly with solid British stage actors, most notably Edward Woodward as Saul and Denis Quilley as a prophet. Gere doesn't get to kill Goliath, but he does get to bed down with Bathsheba (Alice Krige). Contrary to what you might expect, this is not the film in which Gere keeps his clothes on. His acting seems alternatingly wooden and self-conscious.

We never get a sense of the sexual power Bathsheba supposedly had, and she appears in about seven minutes of footage. Even the wide-screen battle sequences seem muddy. But right from the beginning, it is evident that when Beresford goes for the

jugular (literally), the film has found its niche.

You could say, then, that at least *King David* gives good heads. ■

(Castro) M. Lasky

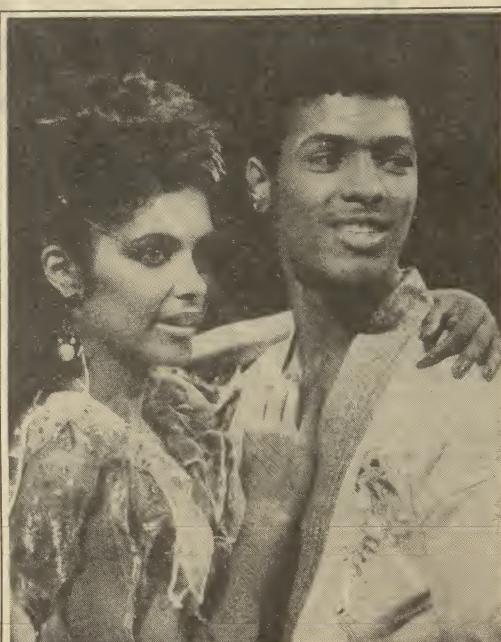
Desperately Seeking Susan*Madonna Persona*

Desperately Seeking Susan is a domestic version of last fall's American Dreamer. Rosanna Arquette replaces JoBeth Williams as the unfulfilled housewife whose search for vicarious thrills gets her caught up in real adventure after an accidental blow on the head causes convenient amnesia.

Instead of becoming a fictional character in Paris, Arquette stays in New York and assumes the identity of Susan, a free-loading, free-loving scavenger played by Madonna. Romance comes along in the sweet, sexy person of Aidan Quinn, a friend of Susan's boyfriend Robert Joy.

A little more hip and entertaining than *American Dreamer*, *Desperately Seeking Susan* stirred advance interest because of Madonna in her first major role and director Susan Seidelman making her first studio picture after the low-budget *Smithereens* started everyone desperately seeking Susan. The verdict is thumbs up in both cases. Madonna, who has proved her screen presence in music videos, is right at home in a sustained role. Ambiguous enough that we're never sure whether we like her, she's far more interesting than co-star Arquette. Seidelman directs like a pro, using the punk milieu of *Smithereens* as background to a more traditional story told from a feminist perspective.

Mark Blum, as Arquette's nerd husband, is the closest thing to a "maternal girl" in the movie, an East Coast "valley boy" who sells indoor hot tubs and is an easy target for jibes at



You sure look like a master to me, says Vanity (from whom Prince cloned Apollonia), who wants to be his mistress, to Taimak, who is Black but dresses like a graduate of "Coolie High" because he's a student of the martial arts. The Last Dragon blends Batman and The Wiz with kung fu and rock videos into something that's not as awful as it sounds, but is strictly for the young—or the young at heart. (Coliseum, Empire, St. Francis, Serramonte) S. Warren

machismo double standards and bourgeois values.

Cult figures from the punk scene and elsewhere abound in minor roles. Richard Hell (of the Voidoids) plays a body; Anne Carlisle (Liquid Sky) is the world's ugliest cab driver; Shirley Stoler (The Honeymoon Killers) is a prison matron; John Lurie and

Richard Edson (Stranger than Paradise) also appear briefly.

Despite the youthful trappings, the surprisingly conservative *Desperately Seeking Susan* is more for fantasy-seeking Yuppies than the rock-and-roll set. ■

(Galaxy, Serramonte) S. Warren

Beyond the Walls*Middle East Side Story*

The notion that the siblinghood of humanity—or brotherhood of man, if you prefer—embraces both Jews and Arabs antagonized separatists on both sides when *Beyond the Walls* was shown in Israel, where it was made. The message of universal love is couched in a political parable about the need for oppressed people to stand together against their oppressors instead of fighting each other, something our community still needs to learn.

On an allegorical level we might accept that Arab and Israeli prisoners are confined together—in separate cells but the same cell block; in the context of an apparent attempt at realism, it's hard to swallow.

Countless American films have told the same story of prison officials maintaining control by encouraging racial unrest among the inmates. *Beyond the Walls* borrows other melodramatic clichés as well, showing prison life as the usual round of sex and drugs and—well, folk music.

The sex is unseen, as are most of the men's bodies, even in a shower scene. There's one flaming queen (Rami Danon) in the Israeli camp and a young Arab (Jacob Ayali) who gets gang-banged. If you want to see Jews and Arabs getting it on together, see *Drifting*, Israel's first and only Gay film.

When a drug dealer is killed the prison is pelted by rumblings of a rumble. Arab leader Muhamad Bakri looks enough like George Chakiris that themes from *West Side Story* run through my head. Bakri recognizes the officials' strategy but has to convince his Jewish counterpart, Arnon Zadok, as well as militants in both groups,

Caught in the middle is Assi (billed as Assaf in earlier films) Dayan, a Jew who made contact with the PLO for reasons never explained. Was he spying or trying to make peace?

With one foot in the pulpit and the other in the boxoffice, *Beyond the Walls* is fairly effective both as sermon and entertainment; but anyone who tries to pass it off as Art must never have seen *Women Behind Bars*. ■

(Opera Plaza) S. Warren

The Hit*Ojo del Toro*

Suspense and black humor don't always mix well. Hitchcock had one way of doing it. Stephen Frears does it another way, with equal success, in *The Hit*.

Ten years after testifying against the rest of his gang, Terence Stamp is tracked down in his remote Spanish hideaway by hit man John Hurt and his punk assistant Tim Roth. They're supposed to deliver Stamp to their boss in Paris before killing him, but getting there is more than half the fun. Laura del Sol (Saura's *Carmen*) becomes an additional—unwilling—passenger. Of the four, only Stamp, who has been preparing to die for ten years, remains calm, which naturally sends the others into a Spanish panic.

A bit of psychological bonding takes place between Stamp and Hurt, but the inevitable ending lacks the

freshness of much of what precedes it—a minor letdown in a film that is otherwise a major delight. One of the surprises is the exciting score, primarily Paco de Lucia's flamenco guitar, with title music by Eric Clapton backed by Roger Waters.

Stamp, too long absent from the screen, seems to have inherited Richard Burton's face as he eases into middle age. Hurt plays a role that might once have been Bogart's. Frears' direction would then suggest John Huston, who directed Burton and Bogey, though never together. Frears' only previous film, *Gumshoe*, was something of a homage to the Maltese Falcon genre.

That oblique tribute is a roundabout recommendation of *The Hit*, which deserves to live up to its name. ■

(Four Star) S. Warren

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BAY AREA REPORTER

SPORTS & FITNESS

G.S.L. Opener

Almost a thousand people watched the Gay Softball League open its eighth season last Sunday at Lang Field when Festus demolished the Rawhide 27-2 in a game which was halted in the fifth inning because Festus had pulled so far ahead.

A three-inning celebrity/sponsor game kicked off the festivities, which was followed by opening ceremonies, including the presentation of a giant rainbow banner used in the Les-

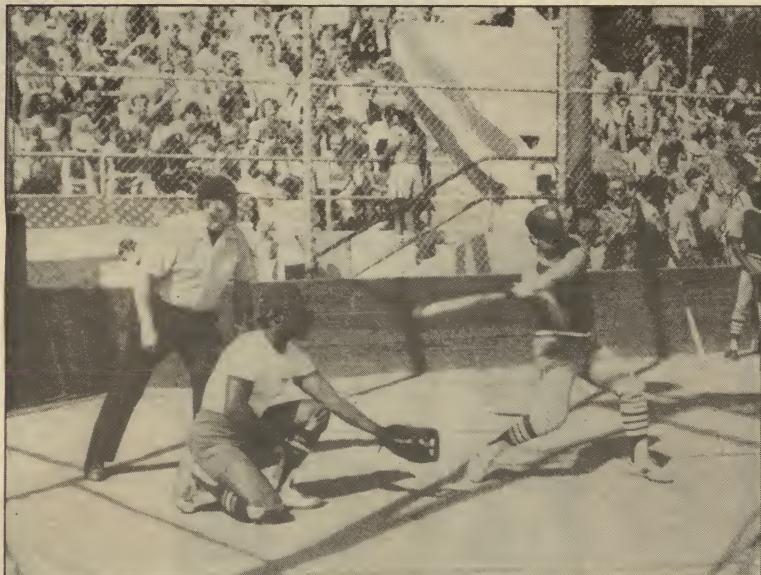
bian/Gay Freedom Day parade, and introduction of the 16 teams that make up the G.S.L. The Vocal Minority sang the National Anthem, the opening ball was thrown out by Supervisor John Molinari, and the rest is history.

It was a lovely, sunny day, and the party continued indoors at a dance party in the Green Room of the War Memorial building after the game.

Good luck to all the players, and have the best season ever. ■



The Rawhide and Festus teams greet the rest of the league at the opening of the 8th season of the GSL (Photo: Rink)



Rawhide's Jerry Gonzalez gets a base hit (Photo: Rink)



Sup. John Molinari gives GSL President Rick Brattin a commendation of the GSL (Photo: Rink)

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The crowd at the opening game (Photo: Rink)

SCOREBOARD

JAPANTOWN BOWL COMMUNITY LEAGUES BOWLING

Team Standings and Personal Achievements
(The League Averages are unavailable)

SUNDAY RENO LEAGUE

(Week 19 of 24 - as of 03/24/85)

1. With Colour	20	8
2. Vagabond	17	11
3. Strange Interlude	17	11
4. Myrna's Boys	16	12
5. Reno, Reno Is . . .	16	12
6. "Alley Cats"	15	13
7. Dice'd Dolls	15	13
8. Team #3	14	14
9. Lois Lanes	14	14
10. Bowling Is Not My Life!	14	14
11. Things Go Bur w/Coke	12	16
12. ?Lucky 13	10	18
13. Gaysha Boys	9	19
14. PWIL Phuckett!!	6	22

WAHAI VACATION LEAGUE

(Week 28 of 37 - as of 03/22/85)

1. Scottie's Alley-Oops	28 1/2	11 1/2
2. El Rio	Tararugas #1	24 1/2 15 1/2
3. Lady & The Tramps	24 1/2	15 1/2

Pedal It

New York — Binel Tours, a Gay owned and operated tour company, will be leading a series of four bicycle adventures through northern Europe this summer. Each 14-day tour, limited to 20 people, begins in Amsterdam and continues through the Dutch countryside to Belgium. A bonus side trip brings participants to Paris by train for a memorable weekend.

Departures are from Kennedy Airport in New York. Scheduled departure dates are June 29, July 13, July 27, and August 10. Cost of the complete two-week adventure (including round trip air fare, all hotels, bicycle rental, and baggage transfers) is \$1,375.

According to Binel Tours' president Mark Ermel, "Working as a travel agent, I became aware of the scarcity of really well-run, well-planned tours designed for Gay people. Sure, there are some good bike tours, but nothing designed to create an enjoyable, exciting experience for Gay men and women. Our bicycle adventures, with the combination of beautiful countryside, the thrill of cosmopolitan Paris and freewheeling Amsterdam, plus great company along the way, are unique in the travel industry."

Reservations for bicycle adventures are being accepted now. Write to Binel Tours, 70 Greenwich Ave., Box 463, New York, NY 10011 for details and a complete itinerary.

Gay Run '85.

July 14 has been confirmed as the date of the 6th annual Gay Run presented by the San Francisco Frontrunners. Gay Run '85 will start at 10 a.m. in Golden Gate Park and is a 5K and 10K race and fun run. The race is open to anyone and the proceeds will again this year benefit the San Francisco AIDS Fund. Crystal Geyser will provide water at the finish and awards will be given to top finishers in each division. In addition, prizes will be given to registered runners selected from random drawings.

It's not too early to start training for Gay Run '85, and a good way to get motivated is to run with the San Francisco Frontrunners on one of their weekly runs. For more information and an entry blank for Gay Run '85 send an SASE to: Mark Indihar, Race Director, 1040 Dolores St., #302, San Francisco, CA 94110, or call 282-6085.

SFPA Scoreboard

March 27, 1985
Week 6 of 10

Division I

Stallion International	56-24 .700
Festus Farmhands	48-32 .600
Park Bowl	
Roadrunners	47-33 .587
Pendulum Pirates	55-41 .572
Pilsner Ltd.	44-36 .550
Marcello's	
Strayshooters	32-64 .333
Chaps Chaparrals	26-54 .325

Division II

Bear Bottoms	46-34 .575
Festus	45-35 .562
Transfer Points	45-35 .562
B.A. Stallions	47-49 .489
Alamo Square	36-44 .450
Chaps Sticks	30-44 .450
Marcello's Mixed Shooters	27-69 .281

Division III

DeLuxe D.U.C.K.S.	64-32 .666
Eagle Creek Chaos	55-41 .572
1. Madam + The Boys	27 9
2. Church Street Station	25 11
3. Five Not So Easy Pieces	24 12
4. High Gear	24 12
5. The Pimento	24 12
6. Rag-Tags	21 15
7. Bananas Without Attitude	20 16
8. Quiet Fire	20 16
9. White Swallow	19 1/2 16 1/2
10. Stud City	17 19
11. Pin Head II	17 19
12. Salsa Supremes	16 20
13. Pilsner Vultures	16 20
14. Sutter's Mill - I Pieces	14 22
15. Sutter's Mill Also	13 1/2 22 1/2
16. Gutter Girls	10 26
17. Rockin' Rollers	8 28
18. The Embiezlers	8 28

THURSDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE	
(Week 25 of 32 - as of 03/21/85)	
1. Pendulum #3	27 9
2. Pilsner 2	24 1/2 11 1/2
3. Pilsner Kingpins	21 1/2 14 1/2

Shaft Rogues	43-37 .537
Maud's	39-41 .487
Pilsner Doughboys	31-33 .484
Detour Dirtroads	31-49 .337
Park Bowl Phantoms	18-62 .225

Division IV

Chaps Outlaws	47-33 .587
DeLuxe Spare Tires	53-43 .552
Transfer Attain.	
Treasures	43-37 .537
Maud's Squad	39-41 .487
Bear Claws	31-33 .484
S.F. Eagle	46-50 .479
Shaft Rascals	36-44 .450

TOP TEN

1 Charles Dossett	17-3 .850
2 Ray Peterson	11-2 .846
3 E.Z.	20-4 .833
4 Marquita Booth	11-3 .785
5 Lisa Duncan	18-6 .750
6 Mike Macri	15-5 .750
7 Walter Moreira	15-5 .750
8 Darryl Lund	9-3 .750
9 Dave Chua	14-5 .736
Bill Von Prillwitz	14-5 .736

Compiled by Jerry R. De Young

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Wise Ruler

Hadrian
by Joel Schmidt
Gay Sunshine Press, \$7.95

by Frank Howell

As any worthy encyclopedia will tell us, Hadrian stood out among all the emperors of Rome. He worked to bring about a uniform system of justice in the Roman Empire. He will always be remembered as a man who savored literature and painting, and played around with mysticism and astrology. Even today his villa stands near Tivoli.

Historians usually refer briefly to his love for a beautiful young man known as Antinous. For the details of this famous romance, we must depend on the imagination and zeal of writers of historical fiction.

For years the standard bearer in the field has been *The Memoirs of Hadrian* by Marguerite Yourcenar, but less sophisticated readers may prefer this popular version of the emperor and his passions.

Schmidt traces Hadrian's development from his boyhood to his experiences in the Roman Army, where he encounters nu-

merous lovers. Trajan, the ruler preceding Hadrian, appoints him governor of one of the outer provinces, and there Hadrian gradually rises to the position of emperor himself. Along the way, he travels to Greece and learns to admire its people's view of the ancient world. He is especially pleased by the contrast of homoerotic love. The Greeks are more than impartial, whereas the Romans despise male-male love.

During his reign, Hadrian meets Antinous, and their love affair becomes widely known. The Romans are scandalized and react coldly to Hadrian, but there is never any large scale attempt to overthrow him. However, the Romans abuse and mock Antinous upon he and Hadrian's return to Rome, which places a severe strain on the two lovers. Antinous finally drowns in the Nile on a trip to Egypt.

Hadrian spends his remaining years mourning Antinous, and builds monuments in his memory.

Joel Schmidt has provided a convincing picture of Roman times, and he makes us feel the agonies and triumphs of a great and wise ruler.

Hall's Powerful Realities

Letter from a Great Uncle and Other Stories
by Richard Hall
Grey Fox Press, \$7.95

by Marv Shaw

Thoughtful readers will be well rewarded by this new collection from Hall. As he did in his previous *Couplings*, he brings us a marvelously varied assortment. There is no running to type for this author. Each protagonist stands in sharp contrast to the others—and to the accompanying characters.

So the great uncle of the title story develops his Gay individuality vividly within the poisonously homophobic atmosphere of a 19th century Texas cow town. A homebound artist and an isolated neighborhood boy achieve a tenuous friendship and a mutual understanding through their love of an Oz character in "The Purple Prince." In "The Lost Chord," a sternly disciplined black physician, rejected by his white lover, climbs beyond bitterness.

And thus they are created

before us. Hall doesn't need the Fire Island glamor of bronzed, hypersexed bodies or the "angelic" vengeance of a Gay private eye. His are real people dealing with authentic lives in everyday settings, such as an upstate wholesale nursery being developed by two lovers who stand in jeopardy from regional roughnecks.

But fantasy has its place too. As the artist and the neighborhood boy each looks into his own home mirror, they see each other. In "Backwards" a reversal of time fascinates as it spells out ironically the growth of wisdom as an aged man regresses.

For sheer versatility, then, and for the power to draw us into actual lives, powerful emotions, and provocative thoughts, this anthology stands in the front rank.

Love, Not Lust

Auden in Love
by Dorothy J. Farnan
Simon and Schuster, \$17.95

by John D. Dolan

The subtitle of this biography is aptly called "The Intimate Story of a Lifelong Love Affair." W. H. Auden, the poet, was 33 when he met Chester Kallman in 1939. Kallman was 19. Auden died in 1973. Kallman died 15 months later. Auden always considered their relationship a "marriage." Kallman did not. According to Farnan, after Auden learned of Kallman's first "sexual betrayal" in 1941, "Chester never went to bed with Wynstan again." In a word, Wynstan and Chester were "happy together" only from the spring of 1939 through the summer of 1941, and yet they had a "lifelong love affair."

Two earlier biographies (*W.H. Auden: The Life of a Poet* by Charles Osborne, and Humphrey Carpenter's *W.H. Auden, A Biography*) acknowledge the relationship, but as Farnan accurately notes they "tended to [interpret] Chester as if he had been a frivolous, sometimes petulant, object of pleasure . . . They discounted most of all Auden's need to love." It is Farnan's special position that gives her book, which often reads like a soap opera, its value. Farnan, who was Chester Kallman's contemporary, met him in 1942, and in 1948 she married his father. Referring to Chester she writes that "we were friends for more than thirty years." She was also, of course, his step-mother.

Farnan shows us what, in real life, a "love affair" can mean. The details of Auden's and Kallman's long relationship are too complicated to describe here, but it is important to note that Farnan makes no judgments on "homosexuals," that her concern is worth interpreting the facts as she knows them. For instance, at one point she asks the crucial question, "Why did Auden permit himself to endure what amounted to a second-best position in Chester's love life?" Her strategy, because she feels an "answer to such a question does not exist," is to describe, often in excruciatingly painful—and sometimes funny—detail, the nature of their unique "love affair."

Auden is considered a great poet. By writing this well-

documented book, which rightly places Chester Kallman at the center of that great poet's emotional life but not at the center of his working life (Auden's poetry always came first), has opened a lot of doors, one of which may lead readers to Auden's poetry, or to the fuller biographies. But certainly this book leads to a room full of questions how great a poet, whose poetry is not "homosexual," was homosexual.

If occasionally the details

seem overwhelming or trivial, Farnan persists in building her case: the relationship is not explained. This reader found that a refreshing change because whatever else "love" may have equated with for Auden, it did not equate with "lust." For Chester Kallman, who "never planned anything," that equation is left up in the air. *Auden in Love* is the kind of book only a self-righteous moralist can dismiss, or a romantic who insists on a perfect relationship.

Other Voices

Conversations With Capote
by Lawrence Grobel
New American Library, \$14.95

by John D. Dolan

Taken at face value, *Conversations With Capote* may seem an insignificant book. Readers who found Capote's public persona embarrassing or offensive may be put off by Capote's facile "with it" wit and his enthusiastic pleasure in gossip, but Lawrence Grobel, an experienced interviewer, knows there was more to Truman Capote than that, and so did Capote himself. For instance, there is this, a quote from Henry James: "We live in the dark, we do what we can, the rest is the madness of art." Responding to his awareness of that "dark," Capote casually makes a point of saying he may appear more "frivolous" than he really is. Both Capote's casualness and the idea itself is revealing. Between the lines of this amusing, sometimes "shocking" and informative book, it becomes clear there was a dynamic, necessary relationship between the "self" Capote chose to project in public, and the nature and value of his "art."

Readers who keep this point in mind ought to find this book both first-rate entertainment—Capote's wit cuts through an awful lot of established hypocrisy—and a reflection of just how good a writer Truman

Capote was. The book is being advertised more for its sensational aspects and it's easy to see why. For one thing, Grobel, who has done his homework about the "gossip" as well as Capote's writing, asks penetrating questions. For another, Capote, no slouch where publicity was concerned, has the admirable courage of his convictions. For those who like "gossip," the book is a gold mine. For those who respect Capote as a writer, the book may be something of a revelation. Grobel has organized his interviews, which took place over a period of two years, in such a way that readers can locate either, or both. What emerges is a portrait of a man who knew the value (and pain) of early fame, persistent pressures, and a born necessity to write.

I couldn't put the book down. For instance, about those controversial chapters of *Answered Prayers* published in Esquire magazine, Capote says this, "I can't understand why everybody's so upset. What did they think they had around, a court jester? They had a writer."

For sure.

There are eight pages of photographs, and a selected bibliography which usefully includes Capote's major work, beginning with *Other Voices*, *Other Rooms* (1948) and ending with *One Christmas* (1983).

Power and Ambition

The Finding of David
by Robert Scott
Gay Presses of New York, \$7.95

by Frank Howell

Since the publication of *Advise and Consent*, Gay scandal has steadily crept into governmental affairs and tales of roman a clef. Politics and sex were molded to fit into each other in a manner similar to religion and erotic feeling. Americans love to raise up heroes and probe for carnal weakness. Titillation and outrage are sure to follow.

Traditionally Gay exposure is a fatal knife wound for the politician. But recently Congressman Jerry Studds has demonstrated that voters can be educated to understand the finer points of the human heart.

Robert Scott has attempted to put these contradictory impulses into sharp focus. Senator Ron Hardt, a liberal Republican, is a victim of his restless and frustrated lover, David Oslo, who is arrested while loitering in a public restroom. Senator Ron's wife, Marilyn, finds her patience stretched too far. She threatens to leave Ron.

After the scandal breaks in the media, David disappears for a time to pull his life together. His friends, Jerry and Steve, at

tempt to find him for Ron, who wants to patch up the mess both in terms of his career and his private life. He wants to salvage both his marriage and his Gay love life. To be a public figure and also bisexual is a strenuous feat for any person.

But here the action bogs down and the reader is put on hold while the characters assume introspective poses. By the time they finish their psychoanalysis the reader is nearing the climax.

The senator and his wife apparently split up and David is also dropped from the senator's busy agenda. Fortunately, David finds another promising lover, but even this is improbable. For Jimmy Grover is a lower middle-class working man who has little in common with David.

Any searching insights into the political landscape only scratch the surface. What is it like for a man in Ron's position to deal with the public and his own inner self? Can a wife really cope with this situation? How do his Gay friends fit into the total pattern? We never find out because Scott wastes his narrative on aimless melodrama and sensationalism. It may be necessary to cling to *Advise and Consent* for a few more years. The sentinel Gay novel of power and ambition has yet to be written.

Hugging Doesn't Cause AIDS

You don't get AIDS by caring about someone with AIDS. AIDS is transmitted through certain types of intimate sexual contact, by sharing of I.V. needles, and by receiving infected blood or blood products. It is not caused by a hug, holding hands, having a good talk, fixing dinner, or going for a drive.

So if you know someone with AIDS, don't be afraid to show you care.

The Shanti Project provides volunteer emotional and practical support to people with AIDS and their loved ones. Volunteers needed. Call today for more information.

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BAY AREA REPORTER B.A.R. BAZAAR

MR. MARCUS

All This and Heaven Too?

The weatherman cooperated with high llamas of the Gay Softball League (GSL) last Sunday at noon when the kickoff of the softball season got underway at Lang Field. Under bright blue skies and soaring temperatures, the usual array of cheerleaders, ball players, hawkers, gawkers, shutterbugs, and celebrities gathered to help GSL Commissioner Rick Brattin make a great showing; close to a thousand people were on hand to witness an array of celebrities engage in a fanatical (make that farcical) three-inning pre-game, which included Sen. Milton Marks, DA Arlo Smith, and representatives of the SFPD, royalty, journalism, leather, and theater against GSL team sponsors. A surprising number of hits ensued with the usual nonsense of powder puffs, wigs flying off, and lots and lots of glitter. Members of the Council of Emperors were selling hot dogs, peanuts and popcorn; Dowager Empress Jose was the Bat Boy for the celebs and Tom Vindeed was hard put to MC the event, competing with the authoritative Brattin and the squeaky-voiced Allen White sounding like a Pelican in heat. The opening battle between Festus and the Rawhide turned out to be less a "battle" than was anticipated. At the end of the fifth inning, Festus was ahead 27 to 2, so the game was called off due to a ruling that if a team is more than 20 points ahead of another team at the 5th inning, that finishes it. A good time was had by all, and hopefully the rest of the season will prove to be as fun as it was last Sunday.

Earlier in the week, Thursday, the month-long search by the SF-Eagle for its candidate to the International Mr. Leather contest in Chicago next month culminated in a dark-horse victory for Pete "Butch" Pettine over the favorite Roy Rodriguez and Dean Gibson, who landed in the 1st runner-up spot and 2nd runner-up spot, respectively. The panel of judges selected by the Eagle manage-



Leather and rabbit ears at the Eagle's Pre-Easter Beer Bust (Photo: Rink)

ment were highly stringent in their questioning, all of them having been involved in IML to one degree or another. Pettine will represent the SF-Eagle in Chicago next month and scooped up \$300 in cash, round-trip air fare, and hotel accommodations as well as a \$200 gift certificate from the Jacket Shop, a \$50 gift certificate from Mister S, a Gay Pride flag from Mercury Mail Order, and the loving support of many of his fans, among other things.

On Friday night, another crowd gathered at Chaps to watch the competition for their Mr. March in the monthly Poster Man contest. In the end, the swarthy Joe Maskell emerged the winner after his somewhat erotic answers swerved the judges onto his victory path. When asked about his "dirty-

(Continued on next page)



Peter Pettine (c.) winner of the Mr. S.F.-Eagle Leather contest with second runner-up Dean Gibson (l.) and 1st runner-up Roy Rodriguez (r.) (Photo: R. Pruzan)



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Thur.—**BIGGEST COCK CONTEST** (12am-\$25 prize)
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ATTENTION!

The Warlocks M/C
presents the
annual Easter
Run!
April 7, 1985

Check-in at the Village at 10:00.
Bike events will be held at 11:00.
Fee \$6.00 includes: two cocktails
and lunch.

Prizes will be awarded for the Bike
and Buddy events and for the Easter
Bonnet contest.

We will be hosting a Beer Bust on the
Eagle Patio following our Run between
3 and 6 PM! \$10.00 for both events!!



The contestants line up in their leather skivvies in hopes of becoming 1985 Mr. S.F.-Eagle leather (Photo: Rink)

Marcus . . .

(Continued from previous page)

genuine EVENT for the entire community; over at 54 Stanton St., Mike and Kevin get in the running with their annual Easter Egg Hunt beginning around 1300 Hrs. and featuring loads of eggs, Dr. Duck's world-famous Sangria, and Kevin's fantastic Ham Sandwiches; of course, music by SKIP (Skip who?) rounds out the hunt for the colored delights. If you feel like you

want to get away from all the dizzy hat parties, you can team up with the Constantines and take a one day ride around San Pablo Bay departing from the Watering Hole at 10 a.m. Sunday; there's no fee, no run pin, no host lunch, or politics—just ride the Bay . . . If you want to be ritualistic, you could join a small group which is celebrating a memorial service for Cheetah the monkey, who was Tarzan's sidekick in so many Weissmuller movies—they say in Hollywood that Cheetah slept with Tarzan more than Jane ever did!

Lucky Baboon . . . The SF-Eagle celebrates its FOURTH Anniversary April 15, 16, and 17 (Mon., Tue., and Wed.) with "pin" night being Monday, T-Shirt night being Tuesday, and entertainment night being on Wednesday, with a champagne buffet and Val Diamond in person, the Hayward Rah-Raws and the Barbary Coast Cloggers MC'd by Tom Ammiano. You'll not want to miss any one of those nights at the Eagle . . . Watch for Mr./Ms. Gay SF to stage the GONG SHOW at the A.S.S. (Alamo Square Saloon) Sunday, April 28 (get your ACT together) and the Constantines M/C 500-mile weekend run on April 27 and 28 to Fort Bragg. Al Martino and his club are definitely on the ball and emerging as a real standout in the bike club community . . . As for Bob Rowbottom of the Barbary Coasters M/C, say what honeybunch? . . . The Cal Eagles M/C finally got admitted to the SF Forum, the "gathering of eagles" clique so to speak, and at their Open meeting last Saturday afternoon were supposed to screen the video of the San Andreas M/C anniversary party in LA earlier this year, but alas, the courier didn't bring the tape, but a good time was had by all . . . On Friday, April 12, Patrick (Perle Mesta) Toner of CHAPS tries his hand at another party, this one honoring the bike club community with LEADER OF THE PACK, a fantasy theme with a wish for all participants to come in '50s motorcycle/leather couture a la Marlon Brando and/or James Dean! Don't forget the greasy stuff on your head and not on your ass, dudes; Ms. Sprocket Face Peckerhead will be the MC (as in mistress of ceremonies) and not as the local gang-bang for the evening . . . If you want to relive the agony of the crucifixion, the 15 ASSOCIATION presents its FETISH NITE party Friday, April 5—bring your own beer and spikes for your crucifixion and pay five silver pieces or come expecting the worst and pay eight silver pieces, right Mr. Durham? Contact THEM for the time and place and hope to see your resurrection at one of the Easter Hat parties, where you'll fit in absolutely with your purple and yellow bruises . . . The A.S.S. is going more *risqué* on Easter with a Bonnet and Basket competition in conjunction with their Easter egg hunt beginning at noon—look for the eggs on Fillmore Street while Grand Duke Michael Bowman MCs the Basket Contest (how fitting!). Leave your black eyes at home, as they will be furnished by the Grand Duke if you REALLY want one . . .

RETURN OF THE DISH BUNNY

One of our local leather (sometimes) barristers is suing the California Motor Club for \$360 in Small Claims Court for a leather jacket stolen at the CMC Carnival contestants' dressing room during the Mr. Carnival portion; I knew leather jackets were a considerable investment, but \$360 for a USED jacket and serving the summons on the patio of the SF-Eagle last Sunday? Dear girl, consult your lawyer; oh, I forgot YOU are a lawyer, aren't you? . . . Loved the Academy Awards last Monday, didn't you? Too bad Gregory Hines and Prince didn't come together, each with only ONE earring; and did you notice Prince and Audrey Hepburn? Talk about Tom Ammiano's mother and "agida" (complete aggravation) when Prince wore the same dress as Audrey! . . . Yes, it's true, the ARENA has been sold and to a STRAIGHT dude, he being the owner of the BILLBOARD Cafe—he looks like the STRAIGHTS are taking over; last Saturday night the OASIS was so packed and had such a long line out from the pseudo yuppies fell into the Eagle and Chaps, and although they appeared quite amiable (their money is GREEN too) they were certainly taken aback! . . . Whether the new Arena owner

CMC will stage its annual Tax Break Run Sunday, April 14, departing from Feb's at 12 Noon and regrouping at the SF-Eagle afterward—don't miss it this year, and remember to file your tax returns before then . . .

★ ★ ★

Gary Noss of Travel Space announces the "package deal" if you're planning to attend the International Mr. Leather Contest in Chicago the weekend of May 26-28; round-trip airfare, hotel and transfers, reserved seating at the contest, three major parties which will be booze-hosted, and a ticket to the Black and Blue Ball for \$565. If you only want to spend three days there and skip the Black and Blue Ball, the tariff will be only \$510. You'll be staying at the elegant Allerton Hotel on posh Michigan Ave., get a free tee shirt, a ticket book with all sorts of free drink and discount tickets, and be on the 17th floor with all the other San Francisco fans. Don't delay—the deadline for signing up for the package deal through Travel Space is April 24. As an added bonus, Mr. Leather of SF 1982, Jim Cvitanich, will be your tour guide, and you couldn't ask for a better one. Call Travel Space on Sutter at 474-5100 and make your intentions known.

★ ★ ★

Don't forget the White Party at Trocadero Transfer this Saturday night where David Caruso and his hearty staff will be recreating the golden era of Hollywood night life for you with special guest Jayne Edwards. Tonight, the SF-Eagle (Thursday, April 4) presents Men Behind Bars II the video, and auctioning off the Statue of Liberty Hat worn by Kate Smith in the show; there's a \$2 optional donation so hope to see all of you there. At midnight tonight, it's a Full Moon, so beware of the crazies. Welcome home to Kym Whittington of Chaps after a three-day hiatus in a secluded trysting place up in Sonoma Co., and don't forget to check out The Male Image painting show by the incomparable Ray Bennett at the Ambush through April 10. Til next week then, remember: For fast-acting relief, try slowing down! ■

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Joe Maskell, winner of the March Poster Man contest at Chaps last Friday (Photo: Marcus)

COURTLY CHATTER

Spring Has Sprung

REMY

We are so very proud that the film documentary *The Times of Harvey Milk* won the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences coveted Oscar last Monday evening. When the winner was announced, it was obvious that the audience was extremely pleased. Goose bumps and tears and a great sense of pride were just the right medicine for a community faced with the malady known as AIDS. Harvey Milk exemplified the meaning of being proud of who you are and never looking down on yourself as being "second rate." An old Hawaiian saying goes, "Never be ashamed of who you are, walk with your head erect and with pride in your steps." We are, and should always be, a proud and self-respecting group of individuals.

SOLD AMERICAN

The Gay Softball League is geared up for its 1985 season. Various teams are hosting auctions to help purchase uniforms and equipment. The team sponsors' entry fees go to help pay for the fields and umpires throughout the season. This year's Commissioner is Rick Brattin, Francis Medeiros is the Assistant Commissioner, Rick Ritt the Secretary, and Ken Stewart the Treasurer. The league has 16 teams divided into two divisions: the Golden Gate and Barbary Coast. The season started March 31 with the opening day ceremonies and game, and will culminate with the world series, to be played in Milwaukee during the weekend of Aug. 28 through Sept. 1. Good Luck, GSL . . . Rah, Rah, Rah!

The Festus Rowdys held its auction March 14 and raised a tidy sum of \$1,688. The packed house bid furiously for items ranging from drink tickets to bartenders. Auctioneers were Rick "Rita" Brattin, Art Jackson, Cha Cha, Cliff Wilson (team manager), and Empress Sissy, who sold bartender Chris Fitzgerald (of Festus fame) to Mark Riley of the David Society for the smart sum of \$69 for "services" to be rendered at a future date.

The following Thursday, March 21, The Trax Maniac team, under the expert coordination of Tim Oros, pulled in \$1,400 plus. Two members of the Balloon Girls, Cobalt Blue and Tawny Gold, added their charisma to the auctioneering. Other auctioneers were Art Jackson, Rick Brattin, Karl Stewart, and Emperor XII (A.N.) Rich Carle.

The Kokpit Pits held its auction on the 23rd and raised \$1,250 with the expert help of Chuck Smith, Miss Gay Parkway, Tom Vinded, Cha Cha (team manager), Chris Fitzgerald, and Empress XIII Char.

The Pilsner Inn was the site of the Fighting Penguins' annual plant auction, Thursday the 28. The auction raised \$2,000 with the spirited auctioneering of Jim Cvitich, Chuck Smith, Art Jackson, Rick Brattin, Tom Vinded, and members of the Pilsner team.

A very special thank you to all of those individuals who contributed auction items, purchased and gave of their time to support the effort of promoting Gay softball in San Francisco. The teams, sponsors, and supporters hope to see you during the sea-

son to enjoy cheering your favorite team to victory.

CLUBBING IT

The Imperial Guards, whose primary purpose is to guard the Emperor and Empress and members of the Imperial Family, have become very visible South of Market. Last run season they attended most of the bike clubs' weekend runs, and were also nominated for a Barbary Coaster Motorcycle Award for Best Campsite on a Weekend Run. Their re-creation of Tara, complete with Scarlet, at the BC's run "Tara, Tara, Tara" (The Bombing of Atlanta), last July, ran a hard second to the 42nd Street Gang's the Confederate's Bombing of Tokyo. Many members of the club are S-O-M people and also enjoy the royalty trip as well. There have been suggestions that they possibly apply for membership in the Forum, but that will be up to them to facilitate that move. Sunday, the 24th saw this club hold its version of a Poker Run. Sign-in was at the Transfer, and then the run proceeded to the Pilsner, Men's Room, Village, and ended up at Festus. There were complimentary cocktails and hot dogs for the participants. At each stop you were given a sealed envelope with a playing card and at the end, the person with the best poker hand won a prize of \$50 with second taking \$25. This was a fundraiser to assist Grand Duchess Trixie Trash help pay her medical bills that have been incurred due to her most recent major illness. The Guards should be congratulated for their efforts and success on having a fun fundraiser.

Saturday, the 23rd was the day to "Roast A Pig" . . . Miss Piggi to be exact. The Village played host to a fun and witty crowd, as roaster after roaster singed the Pig's wig. The deal was that Miss Piggi, even with a retort, could not say a word while being roasted. We understand this didn't hold up for long, as a kind benefactor paid for time so the Pig could try to get even. Yours truly was even roasted (so what else is new) and others were not so sacred either. Hosted by Bill Wood, president of the Cycle Runners M/C (Miss Piggi is his first lady), this event was a fundraiser for the S.F. AIDS Foundation Food Bank. The roasting and pork sandwich sale raised \$670 for the Food Bank. It does pay to Roast a Pig from time to time!

The Barbary Coasters M/C celebrated its 19th Anniversary Saturday the 30th at Febe's. The combined open meeting, installation of officers, and buffet was an event that was not to be missed. The BCs host the Annual Motorcycle Awards held each February to honor the accomplishments of the various motorcycle/buddy clubs of the previous year. The 100 plus attendees ate, drank, and partied in anticipation of the naming of the officers for 1985. Although there were the usual "loose lips sink ships" people, who let the world know who the new officers were prior to this soiree, the officers are: President, Matthew Brown; Vice President, Gene Forrest; Road Captain, Chuck Eargle; Treasurer, Fred Hall; Recording Secretary, Andrew Korniej; and Corresponding Secretary, Larry Kim. The members of the BCs provided the buffet and complimentary cocktail, various merchants and



Ed Paulson grappled by Little Mother at the AIDS auction at The Mint

(Photo: Rink)

bike clubs and the door prizes, and the attendees the fun time. A very special thank you to all of those who donated to and supported the Barbary Coasters 19th Anniversary Celebration.

UP & COMING CLUB EVENTS

The Warlocks M/C is having its open meeting Friday, April 5 at Febe's starting at 8:30 p.m. (Alan Dale Time). Also on Sunday the 7th, the Warlocks are having their annual Easter Run. Check-in is at 10 a.m. at the Village, followed by bike and

buddy events, place to be announced, and ending up at the SF-Eagle Patio for brunch and beer bust from 3 to 6 p.m. Price for both run and beer bust (brunch included) is \$10, beer bust only is \$6. According to President Alan Dale, there will be a "pretty hat contest" (not to be confused with an Easter Hat contest)—however, knock yourself out if Easter is where your hat is! Plan to attend, as this event is always full of fun and surprises.

The California Motor Club (CMC) has scheduled an open

meeting for April 12 and its annual Tax Break Run for the 14th. Details were not available at press time. If you want to find out the particulars, contact any CMC member or call the hotline 821-3637.

The following Saturday, April 13, the California Eagles are hosting a one-day run. Check-in is at 10 a.m. at 24th and Noe Streets, proceeding to Route 35 toward San Jose. When they reach San Jose, The Renegade and Boot Rack bars are having drink specials, and dinner will be at David's at Main Street. Buddies and riders should dress for the weather. This is a no-host event (as President Phil Smith says "no cost, no host, and no run pin"), but do come and have a good time. For further information call Phil Smith at 285-5975 anytime.

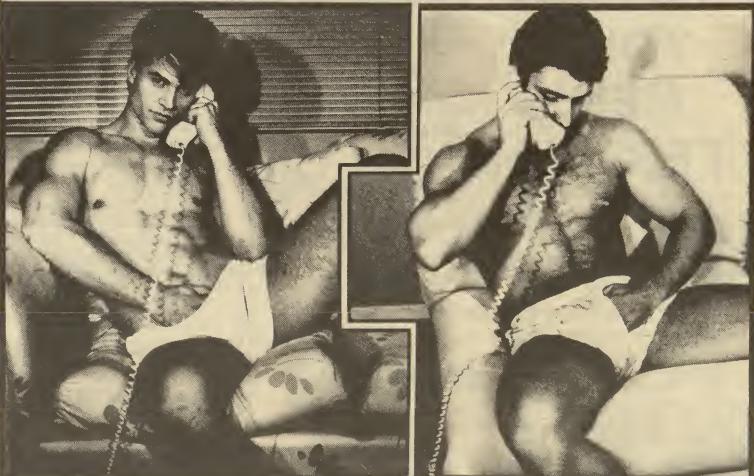
The Constantines of the Bay Area are planning an overnight ride over the April 27 weekend. The run/ride is scheduled for points north along the California coastline. More information will be forthcoming. However, if you can't wait, contact any member of the Constantines for details. Yours truly is attending this one . . . oh how butch!!!

SOMETHING FOR SUNDAY

GSL season opener . . . Summer-like weather brought out a couple of thousand fans and spectators for the 8th Annual Opening Day Game and Ceremonies of the Gay Softball League at Lang Field. The stands and field were gaily decorated with bunting and multi-colored balloons. As each of the 15 teams were introduced, the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Committee held aloft a giant Gay Flag. The Vocal Minority entertained, and President of the Board of Supervisors, John Molinari, threw out

(Continued on next page)

CHEAP & EASY



Picture this:
You're horny (again).

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Some other dude comes on the line.
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Chatter

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Close Ball Queen Deena Jones turns in her poker hand cards at the Imperial Guard's run (Photo: Rink)

Ch-Ch-Ch-Chatter

(Continued from previous page)

the ceremonial first ball to former commissioner Bob Docca. Prior to all of this fol de rol, the sponsors and celebrities played a three-inning exhibition game. The sponsors team of 16 members, headed by Empress XIII Char, (complete with 3-tier platinum blonde wig) played against a politically power-packed team of celebrities captained by State Senator Milton Marks. Despite the heavy weightiness of politicos, the celebs were defeated by the sponsors 3 to 1. Wait till next year. We'll show 'em.

After the game . . . The fans,

spectators, and players headed for other points, such as the Post Game Party and Dance at the Green Room, South of Market to the Eagle for the Grand Duke and Duchesses' annual Bunny Contest, and others to the Mint for the AIDS Care auction presented by Little Mother and Ed Paulson of the East Bay AIDS Fund (which garnered \$738). The winners of the Bunny Contest were Jeannine for Miss Bunny and Adam for Mr. Bunny.

AND ON TO CHICAGO

Congratulations to Peter Petine, Mr. S.F. Eagle Leatherman 1985. Last Thursday night seven finalists competed for the

right to go to Chicago and compete in the Mr. International Leather contest during the Memorial Day weekend. The winner and 1st runner-up of each of the three previous week's contests competed in the finals. The packed house cheered each contestant as they were judged for leather image, stage presence, and physique. Second runner-up was Dean Gibson, 1st runner-up was Roy Rodriguez, with Peter Petine winning the coveted title. Congratulations also go to all of the contestants who entered all of the contests, and good luck, Peter, in Chicago.

ALOHA . . . till next time! ■

Remy

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Band Elects Officers

The San Francisco Band Foundation, including the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band, Twirling Corps., Flag Corps, the San Francisco Tap Troupe, City Swing, and the band's auxiliary support group, the Aides-de-Camp, held its annual meeting Sunday, March 10 at the old Russian Embassy. Brunch was served and awards for outstanding achievements during 1984 were presented.

Voting took place to elect unit officers and members of the Board of Directors. Ten previous members, including Duke Armstrong, Les Bruno, David Cockman, Fred Davis, B.J. Ir-

win, Bruce Jewett, Jim Mock, Randy Stallings, Richard Stone, and Warren Tuttle, were returned to the board. Eight new members were elected to their first term. Among them are Laney Bauonet, Deb Clifford, Dennis Collins, Jane Collins, William Fisher, Charlie Graham, Don Johnson, and Bruce Lenores.

New officers for the Foundation were elected at the first board meeting held March 21. Duke Armstrong was elected President; B. J. Irwin, Vice President; Richard Stone, Treasurer; Warren Tuttle, Recording Secretary; and Don

Johnson, Corresponding Secretary.

An ambitious schedule of concerts and productions is planned for 1985, beginning with the band's April concert, Twilight. City Swing will produce Prom Night in June. The Tap Troupe and Vocal Minority's combined show, Sneak Preview, is scheduled for July, and the Foundation's annual show in November, Stage Door Canteen. The board invites the community to keep music alive in '85 by becoming season-ticket holders for these events. Call the Foundation office at 621-5619 for more information. ■

Bazaar Calendar

Thursday 4/4: Men Behind Bars, the video, SF-Eagle, 8 p.m., \$2 optional door charge. The Statue of Liberty hat worn by Kate Smith in the show will be auctioned off, to benefit the S.F. Band Foundation.

Auction for St. Anthony's Dining Room, Pendulum, 8 p.m. Hosts: Bobby Pace and Dee Dee Love.

Friday 4/5: Warlocks MC, open meeting, Febe's, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday 4/6: Constantine's one-day ride to San Pablo Bay, meet at the Wateringhole at 10 a.m.

Sunday 4/7: Easter Hat Party, Trax, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free cocktail with each hat, hat judging at 4 p.m., cash prizes for most original.

Gay and Senior Easter Dinner, Rathskeller (Turk and

Polk), free, 12 to 3 p.m., all welcome.

Easter Lily Party, Lily Street, 11 a.m., bonnet contest, egg hunt, etc.

Easter "Basket" Party, Kokpit, 12 to 5 p.m., prize for biggest basket.

Easter Sunday Affair, Town and Country (Telegraph and 20th, Oakland) noon buffet. Host: Emperor V Don Squire

Beer Bust, Rawhide II, 12 to 7 p.m.

Festivity, Castro Station, 1 to 9 p.m.

Warlocks M/C Easter Run, see Courtly chatter for details.

Warlocks Beer Bust, SF-Eagle, 3 to 6 p.m., \$6.

Easter Bonnet Contest, Casa Loma, 7 p.m., with Grand Duke Michael Bowman, egg hunt at noon.

Easter Hat Contest and Egg

Hunt, between the Men's Room, The Village, and Festus. Begins at 1 p.m. and lasts until prize for best hat.

Third Annual Easter Delight, Bench and Bar (120 11th St., Oakland) 7:30 p.m., prizes for Easter Bonnet Contest, raffle at 11 p.m. Hosts: Emperor Doug and Empress Toni (ACIE).

Easter Fashion Extravaganza, The Spirit (formerly Roadrunner) 9 p.m., \$1.

Wednesday 4/10: Dynasty Night, 9 p.m., at Festus, Pendulum, Elephant Walk, Village, Midnight Sun, Moby Dick, Men's Room, Castro Station, The Special, Cafe San Marcos, Transfer, Pilsner Inn, Casa Loma, Trax, Polk Culch, Renegade, Kokpit, Logan's, Febe's, (hot dogs), Chaps, SF-Eagle (dinner at 6 p.m., \$4).

Anti-Dynasty Night, The Mint, 9 p.m. For those not into Dynasty. ■

Compiled by Remy and Karl Stewart



Annette Benning (l.) and Francine Tacker in ACT's *Our Town*

Babylon

(Continued from page 23)

The story of a *nouveau-riche* family, its son and daughter, their suitors, and the unexpected arrival of a crash-landing aviator and his circus-performer friend supply an ample cross-section of humanity for Shaw to tumble about, which he does with a down-pour of words and hysterical situations, not the least of which is the bored daughter's hungry pursuit of the aviator. "Buy the brute for me, Papa," she requests. She doesn't care for her proposed suitor, who is overbred, like an expensive little dog. "I like a mongrel myself," she growls.

Sex is a main topic, and also age, death, courtship, sexual roles, democracy, the relations of parent and child.

The Berkeley Rep production of *Misalliance* is overdirected, shrill at first, embodying some

inconsistencies of style. Fortunately, problems pass away midway through the first act as the director relinquishes his grip and the actors are allowed free rein with the free-wheeling words of Shaw. The rest of the evening is a merry, laugh-filled swipe at everything we hold dear—and ought not to. The Rick Lee Jones quote, "Take a deep breath and break the chains," is R.A.T.'s motto for *Traps*, and serves well here. Shaw without a subject is better than Shaw with one, for we are spared the preaching, the reforms, the patriarchal poop that burdens many of his plays. *Misalliance* is a sparkler of churlish jest.

Chief among the pleasures are the languid summerhouse set by Karen Gjelsteen, the lovely lighting palette of Steve Peterson, and the fanciful costumes of Michael Olich. The acting company is laudable. Hope Alexander—Willis is well typecast as the brazen circus performer, excelling at last; Michelle Morain

if he's on the verge of coming out: "If I could trust me, I'd begin/Living without hiding within... Making the boy who hides within/Into the man he might have been . . ."

In the very next scene Ned is infuriated by something he reads in a sleazy newspaper, the *New York Graphic*: "It's a lie, a filthy insinuation! . . . I know Tony as well as I know myself."

Ah, the plot thickens . . . or does it? The song is never explained and the tabloid scandal, which proves to be true, concerns Hart's fatal "blood disease." He was syphilitic, although the script is not specific and the program notes say he died of paresis, a form of paralysis.

For an upbeat ending after all the misery, Hart leaves what seems to be his deathbed (though in fact he lived three more years) to be reunited with Harrigan at a benefit that might have been the first "Night of 100 Stars."

★ ★ ★

The score combined Harrigan

is luminous as the restless daughter; and Laurence Ballard hysterical in one of Shaw's wilder flights of fancy, a would-be Peter Lorre.

Most stimulating is James Carpenter. In his second show with Berkeley Rep, he's revealed as that old-fashioned inamorata, the matinee idol. He's big, bounding—what suave manner, chiseled features, seductive eyes, voice, what thumb! Perhaps he'd care to know that I'm single and have been having safe sex for several years? Oh yes, he can act, too, and is one of several talented new people bringing a lift to the company under the administration of Sharon Ott.

★ ★ ★

Little need be said about ACT's admirable staging of Thornton Wilder's beloved *Our Town*. Go and enjoy.

ACT has restored the play to pristine freshness, if not fully measuring up to its ensemble needs. As Wilder explained in his preface to the play, and eloquently in an essay published in his posthumous collection, "American Characteristics," the play was styled in its particular fashion to escape the stultifying conventions and comfort of Victorian theater. Over the years, it's been so oft done it became comfortable too, a quaint play about life in a small town. That's a misreading of it, and ACT dusts it off, stressing its ties to the universal, to all humanity, to the ages. The Geary has a harsh back wall, there's no scenery but what is absolutely essential, and the cutesy pantomime of many productions is gone. The bare-bones approach has a stark beauty and focuses our attention on the eternal questions Wilder addressed, not the local problems frequently stressed. The dead in the graveyard are severe, contrasting movingly with Annette Benning's palpable radiance as Emily.

You'll shed tears, and that's okay. Life isn't easy. But if we could maintain Wilder's perspective—a long, long, and kindly view—we'd all be kinder to each other.

J. Karr

Traps

Reflex Action Theatre
Through April 6; 346-4063

Misalliance

Berkeley Repertory Theatre
Through April 14; 845-4700

Our Town

ACT
Through April 20; 673-6440

gan-Braham originals with new period-sounding songs by Max Showalter and Peter Walker. It was hard to tell which were which—the oldies have long since faded from memory, while the newies were just as forgettable. The highlight of D. J. Giagni's choreography was an ensemble dance in wooden shoes, a pleasantly clompy variation on tap dancing.

David Mitchell's sepiatoned sets were too low-keyed to impress in a large theater. Joe Layton's direction was difficult to judge with the show in a state of flux.

The Harrigan 'n Hart I saw was bad but not unsalvageable—worse musicals have succeeded though many better ones have failed, and miraculous transformations have occurred during previews.

Perhaps Broadway didn't have room for another drag queen; or perhaps, like me, it had no patience in this day and age with a Gay man who couldn't decide what he was. ■

S. Warren

Gay Male Anthology Planned

Isaac Jackson is collecting material and acting as editor for a book of Black and third world Gay writing, both poetry and prose (including both fiction and nonfiction) for future publication by The Crossing Press.

The anthology will explore the ways in which race, ethnicity, and racism shape the perceptions of Gay men of color of themselves and their sexual orientation. All Gay men of color (non-white) from around the

world are invited to submit work to contribute international perspectives. Visual artists are also invited to send photographs and drawings (black and white only please).

Work cannot be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope. The deadline is April 30. Send entries to Isaac Jackson/Third World Gay Male Anthology, P.O. Box 1513, New York, NY 10009. ■

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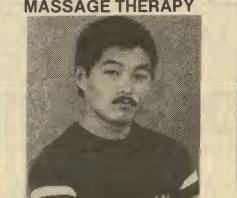
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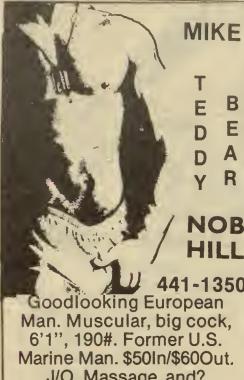
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THE P.S. TIMES

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1985

CASA DE CRISTAL, 1122 POST ST., S.F., 441-7838

ALWAYS NEWS IN GOOD TASTE

*P.S. RESTAURANT, 1121 POLK ST., S.F., 441-7798

*P.S./CASA CREW RECORDS SINGLE FOR FAMINE RELIEF



SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA—It was learned today that the **ever trendy** staff of the famous *P.S. and Casa de Cristal restaurants got together this past weekend (see photo) to record a group song in the tradition of England's "Do They Know Its Christmas," the U.S.A.'s "We Are The World" and Canada's "Tears Are Not Enough." However, the *P.S. song, "We Are Not Cheap (Merely Inexpensive)," was not designed to raise money for starving Ethiopians but rather to assure budget conscious San Franciscans that yes, the **half price special on dinner entrées** at both restaurants will indeed still be in effect for dinner on **Easter Sunday!**

In case you haven't heard the news, the owners of the famous *P.S. and Casa de Cristal restaurants in response to the **depressing conditions** in the City by the Bay, declared a celebration several weeks ago. For an undetermined period of time, all the **wonderful and delicious** dinner entrées only on both menus would be **half price!** Hard to believe folks? But both owners said **half off** on all dinner entrées!!!

When interviewing both Mr. Waddell and Mr. Adinolfi they both appeared rational and both confirmed our report concerning the **half off** offer.

They pointed out a need for people to be able to dine in comfort and enjoy a good time without creating their own **national debt**.

We add our congratulations to both and hope the idea has **universal appeal**.

For those interested several rules apply during this **crisis**. **One**—No reservations. **Two**—Anyone wishing to charge his or

her dinner will have to add a service charge (due to the greatly reduced prices). Visa/MC add 3%. Diner's Club add 4%. American Express add 4.5% to the final reduced amount of the bill. **Three**—Half price offer *does not* apply to Sunday and Holiday Brunch.

So that all of you don't think that these two men have gone completely mad, the reduced

prices do not apply to any liquor or wine.

One additional note before we end this strange but true press report. Mr. Adinolfi wanted me to remind everyone about the valet parking which begins at 7:30 p.m. and for those who are early there is a new parking garage next to the Casa de Cristal.

We do hope you don't miss this **wonderful celebration!**

ASK ALICE

They All Laughed At My Fluffy Tail



Dear Alice:

I come to San Francisco once a year around this time and this year I have been reading your column just to find out what is going on around town. My problem is that I am looked upon as a freak to most of the unmasked people here because I lay eggs and I am no longer a chicken. I am just dying to go somewhere fun for Easter dinner. Can you tell me of a place that will treat me right without all that bunny hog stuff?

Peter Cottontail
Dust Bowl, Texas

Dear IRS:

I think we all have hopes the "check will be in the mail," but not to worry. I made a few discreet inquiries this morning and it has been confirmed that the **half price specials at the *P.S. and Casa de Cristal have no ending date in sight!** As long as we all support it, I think it just may become a permanent San Francisco tradition.

By the way, if that is your real name, maybe you should think about changing it . . . to something like Tex Rayturn. Ha Ha. Only kidding.

HALF
OFF
ON ALL
DINNER
ENTRÉES



CASA de CRISCAL



Dear Dick:
You're in luck honey! The half price specials at the *P.S. and Casa de Cristal are still on and will continue to be on Easter Sunday for dinner (not brunch, however) and from what I hear the food and service is just wonderful . . . Please write me again when you are in town. For some reason I feel that I know you from somewhere. Were you in town the last time I had my pap test???

Dear Alice:

I have read all about the half price special at the *P.S. and Casa de Cristal and some friends of mine tell me they went and really enjoyed the wonderful food and fancy service and teeny weeny price! I really want to go but just can't afford it until I get my income tax check back. Do you know how long the half price special will last? Do you think I will miss out on this amazing bargain???

Irs Cummings
Daily City

Less Is More At Famous Hideaway

SAN FRANCISCO—The World Famous **Hideaway Bar** at the internationally chic **Church Street Station** has announced that they are open at 6 a.m. for 49¢ Well Drinks, Beer and Wine!

Special prices prevail on a sliding scale, and here's how it works: **6 a.m.—49¢ drinks, 7 a.m.—59¢ drinks, 8 a.m.—69¢ drinks, 9 a.m.—79¢ drinks, 10 a.m.—89¢ drinks, 11 a.m.—99¢ drinks 'til 2 a.m.!**

Now you can enjoy those fabulous omelettes with your favorite Bloody's, Screws, Greyhounds, et al. Get in the midst of local cuisine and gossip in the world famous atmosphere of our wonderful clientele!